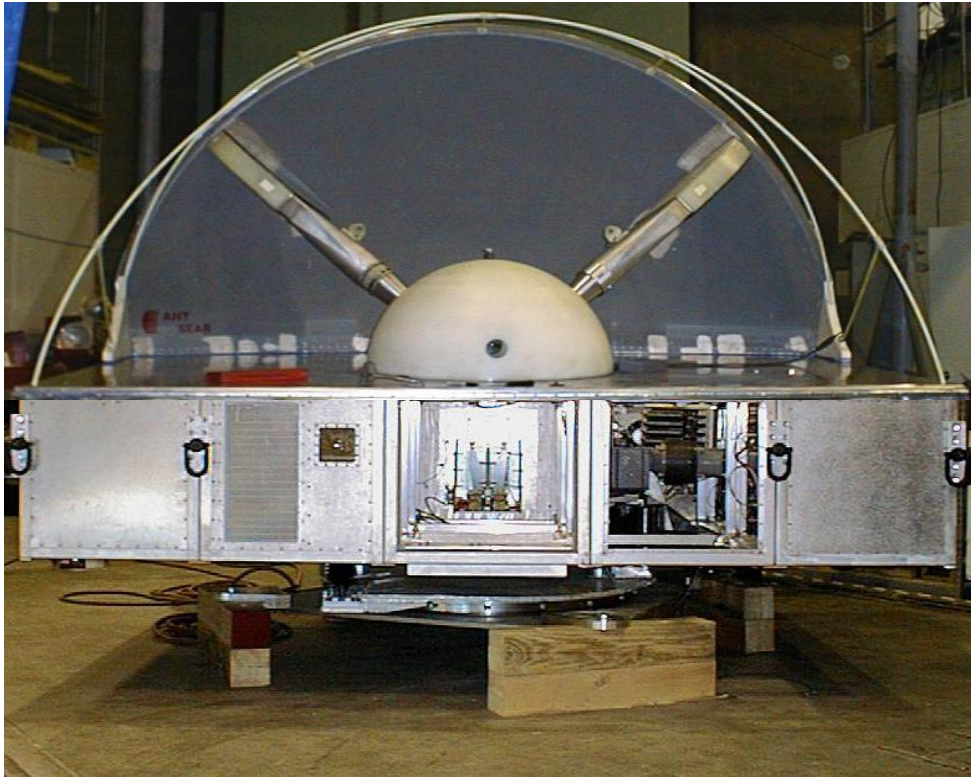


## Systems Aspects for Ultrafast Switching

**Prof. Jane Lehr**  
**University of New Mexico**

# Portable Ultra-Wideband Radiating Sources



**Impulse Radiating System met both  
Peak Field & PRF specifications!**

$V_p = 1.2 \text{ MV}$

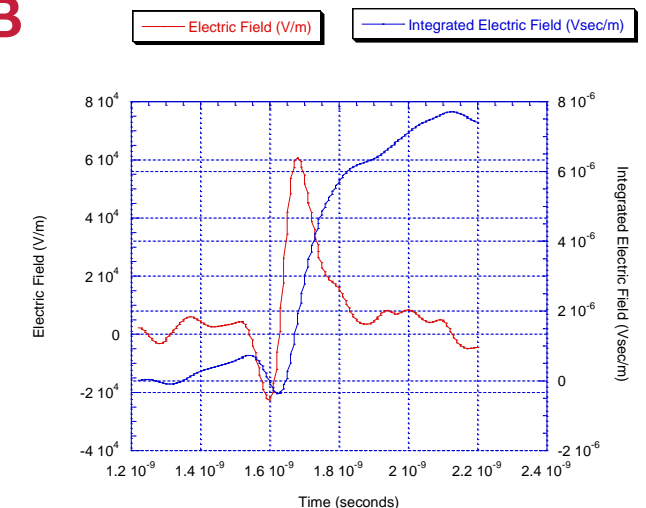
$T_r = 200 \text{ ps}$

World record for  
Peak **E** at distance

**First ACTD at Kirtland AFB**

**Two Important Lessons:**

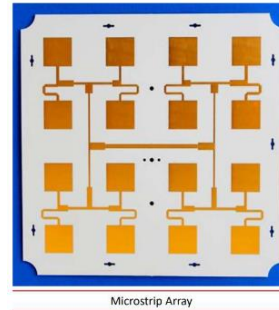
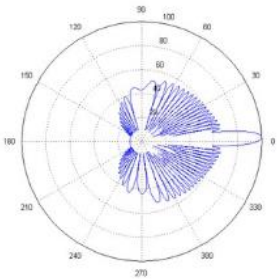
- **Systems Perspective**
- **Identify Physics Limits**





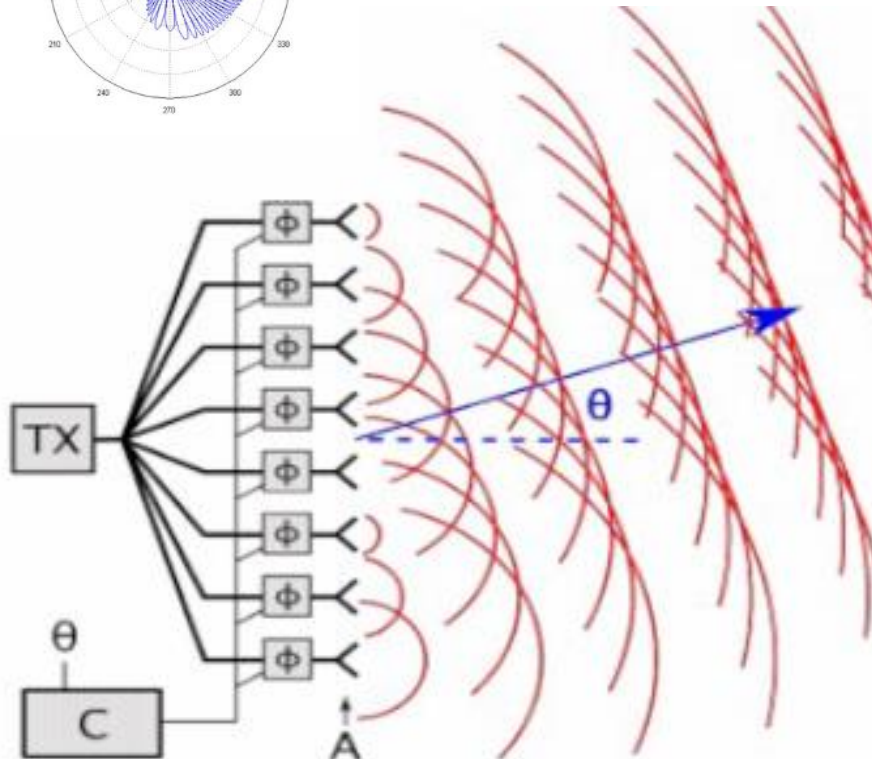
# Antenna Arrays

## Directive pattern



## Electronic Beam Steering

- No moving parts
- Low profile
- Can be conformal
- Facilitates multibeam
- Self pointing



## Adaptive Directivity

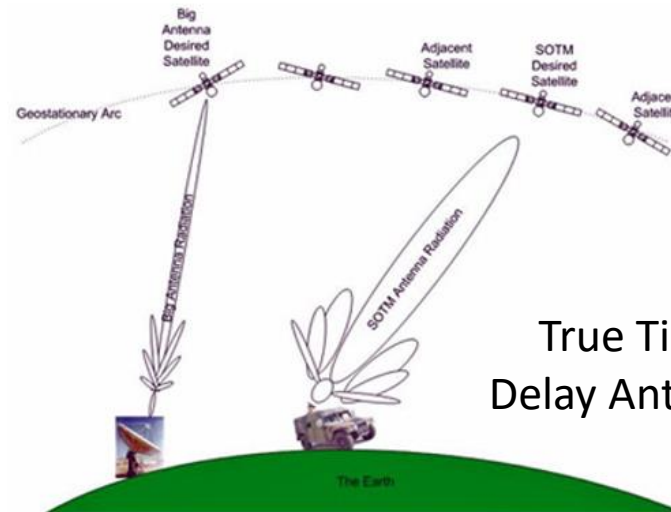
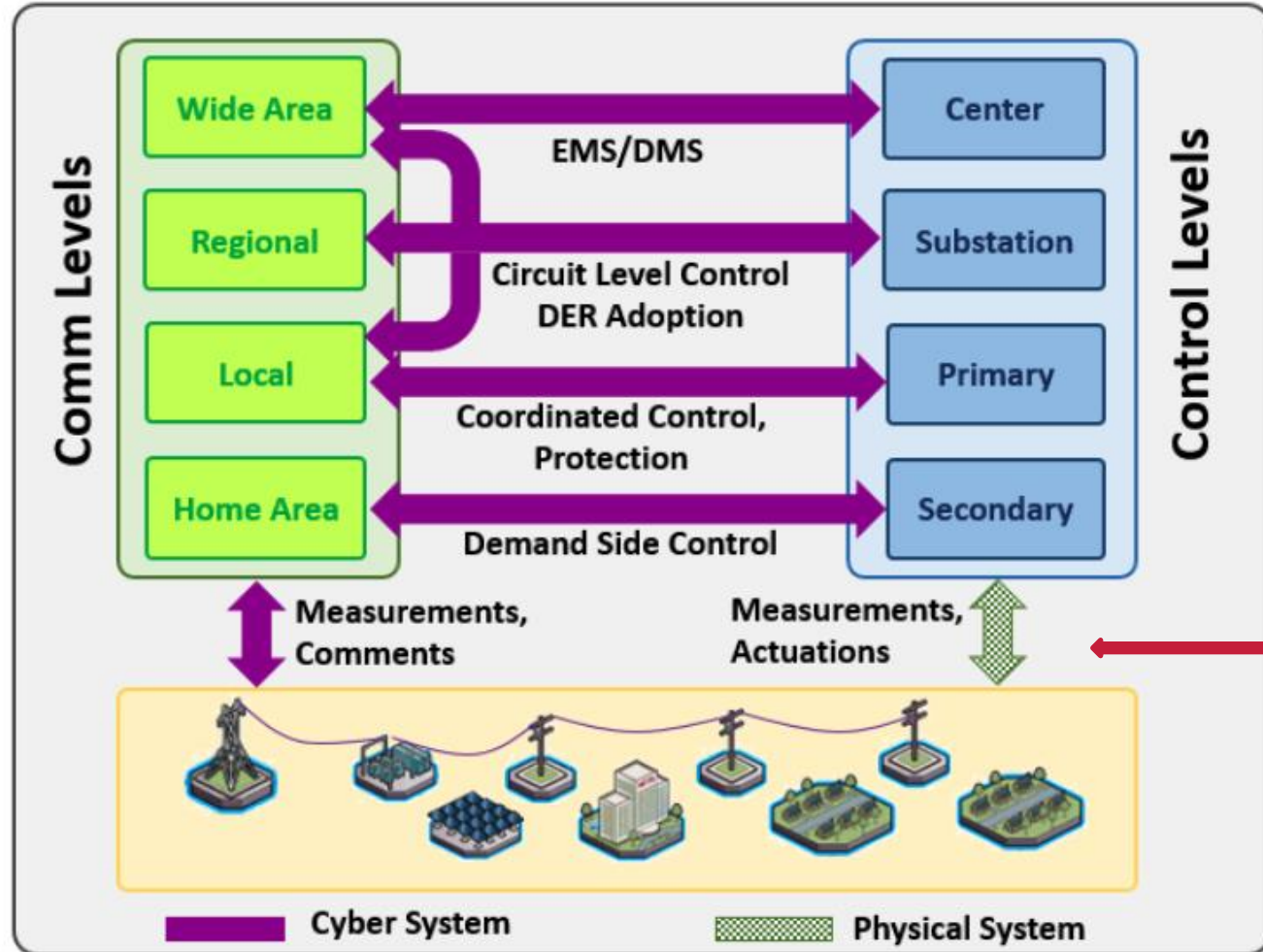


Figure 1. Adjacent Satellite Interference Constraints

$$\Delta t \leq 0.1 \frac{T}{4} = 0.1 \frac{\lambda}{4c}$$

**Ultrafast Switching  
Enables  
Modularity,  
Protection  
&  
Control**

# Cyber Physical Control System for Grid

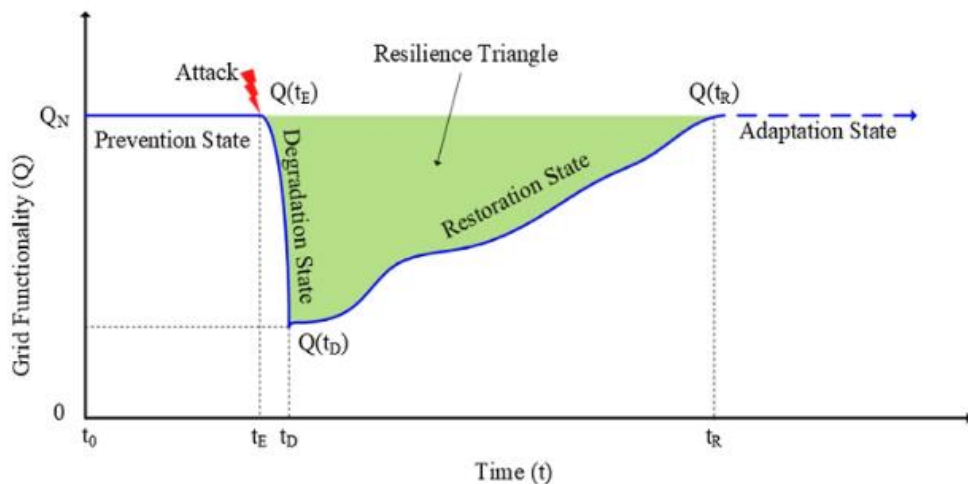
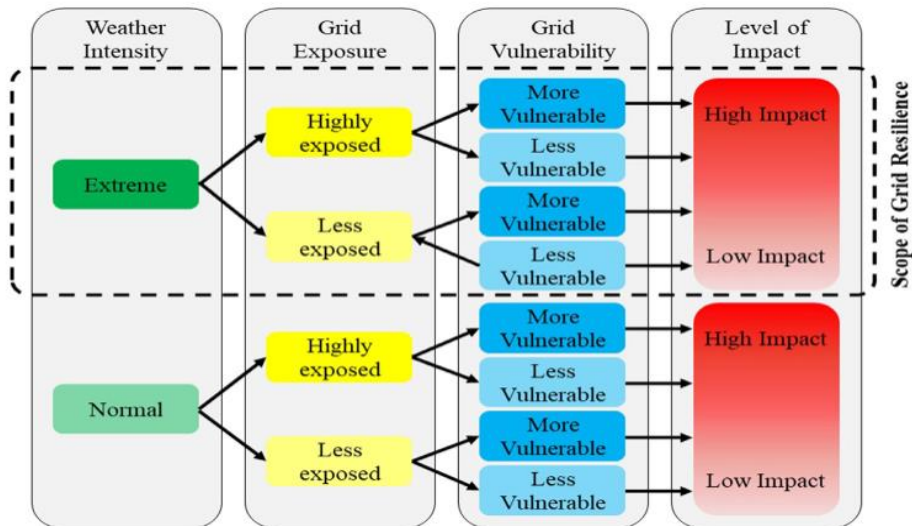


Robust-Recoverable

Power transmission and distribution networks are greatly dispersed and highly **complex** engineering systems with different degrees of connectivity. One of the key issues is that the **dynamic** electricity supply and demand balance needs to be maintained in **real-time**. Natural disasters, severe weather and attacks make reliable operation a very difficult task.

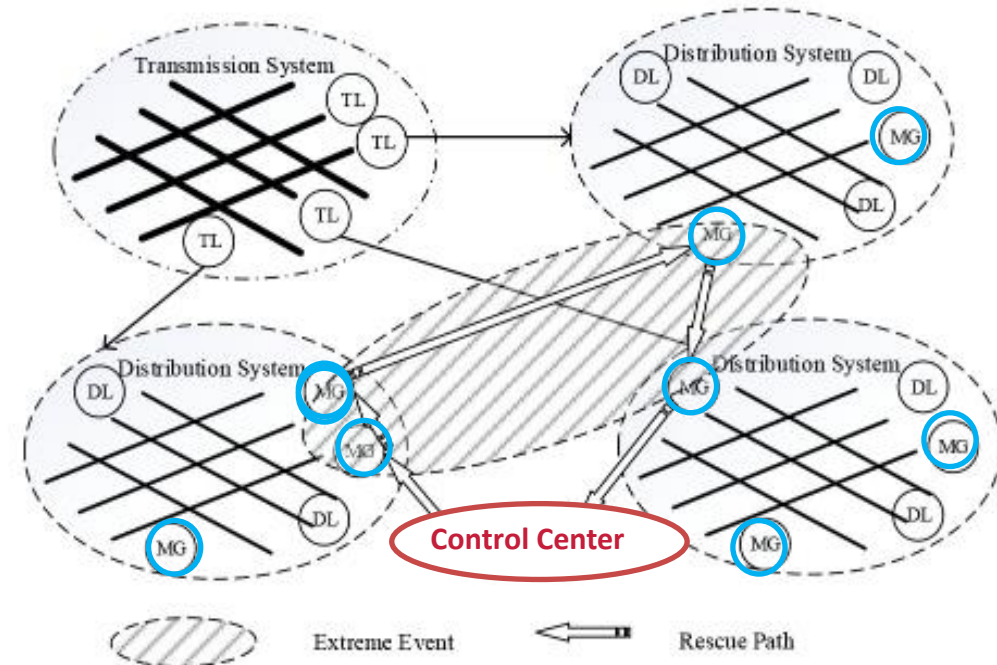
**Ultrafast Switches**





## Resilience Framework

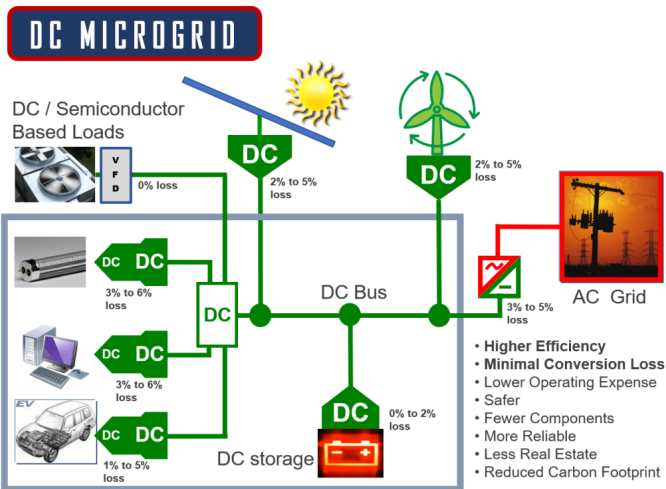
Grid Recovery Strategy Including microgrids





# Speed of control/ Size of Circuit

Next Generation DC System: Energy loss is reduced at multiple points of operation



**Small Circuits need Faster  
Detection and Response  
for Protection and Resilience**

Resilience

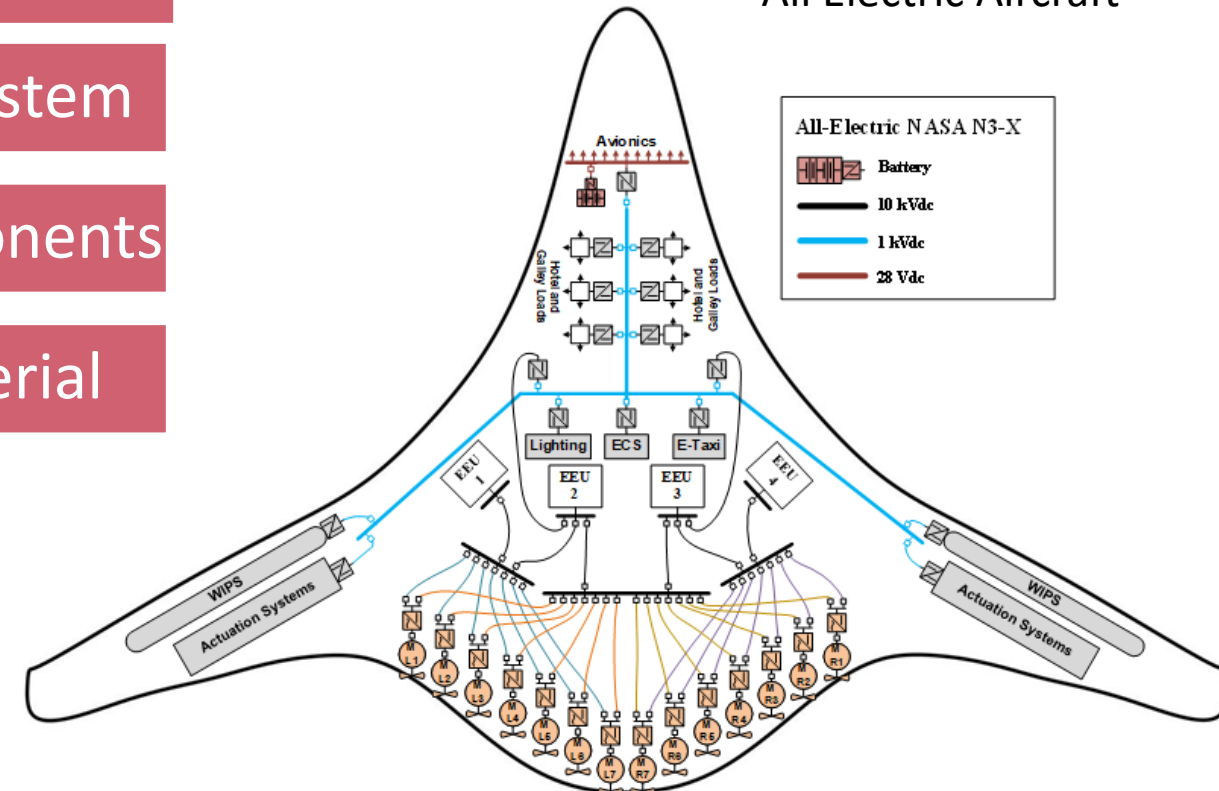
Application

Subsystem

Components

Material

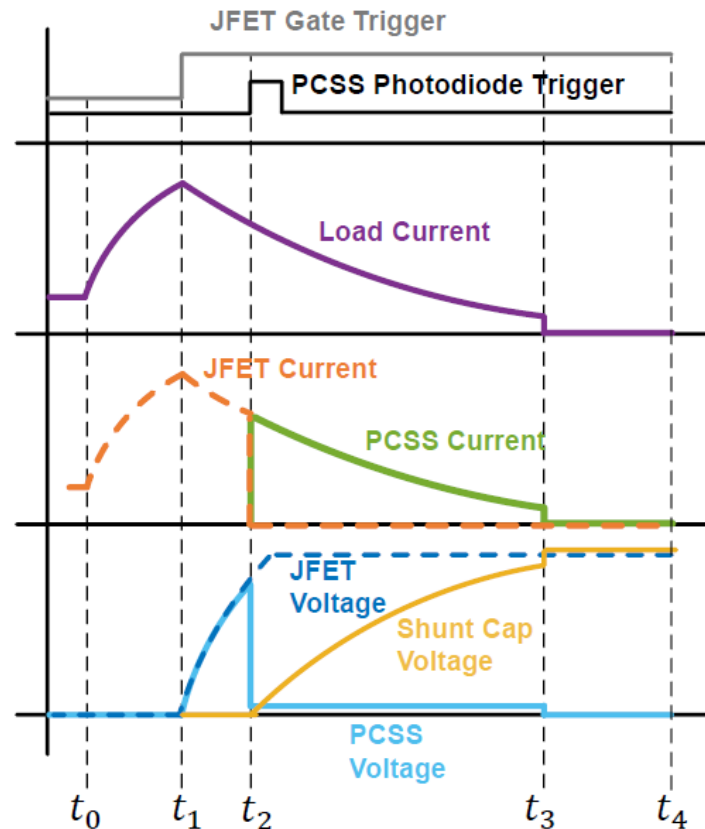
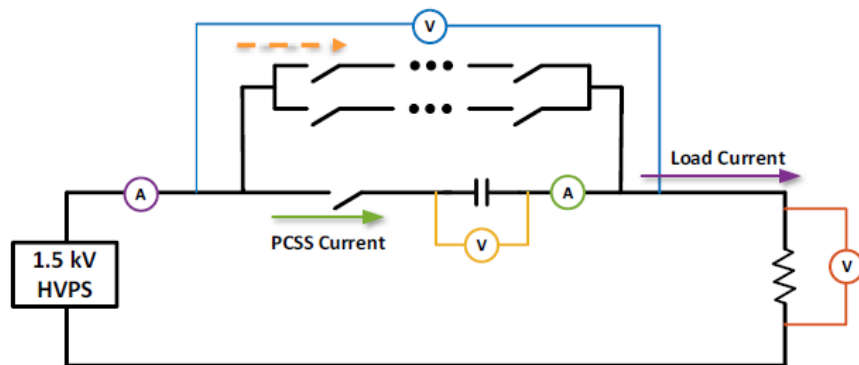
All Electric Aircraft



# DC Circuit Breaker Demo Behavior was Predicted



- Test sequence includes the opening and closing of relays for safety purposes
- Based on protocol and circuit theory, circuit behavior (i.e. waveforms) can be predicted
- Time intervals are sensitive to current levels



## Interval I [ $t_1 - t_0$ ]

- Fault current rises at  $t_0$  until  $t_1$  when the fault current is detected, turning JFETs OFF

## Interval II [ $t_2 - t_1$ ]

- JFET voltage starts to rise at  $t_1$  and JFET/load current starts to decrease.

## Interval III [ $t_3 - t_2$ ]

- PCSS is triggered at high-gain mode at  $t_2$ , diverting fault current from JFET leg to shunt cap.
- Shunt capacitor voltage rises based on RC value.

## Interval IIV [ $t_4 - t_3$ ]

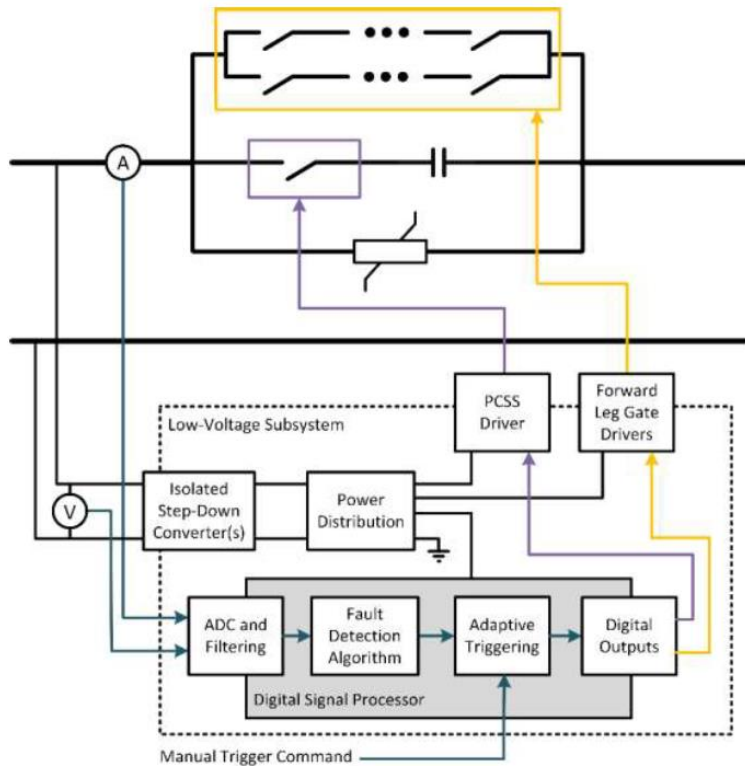
- PCSS voltage reaches OFF state and breaks remaining current.



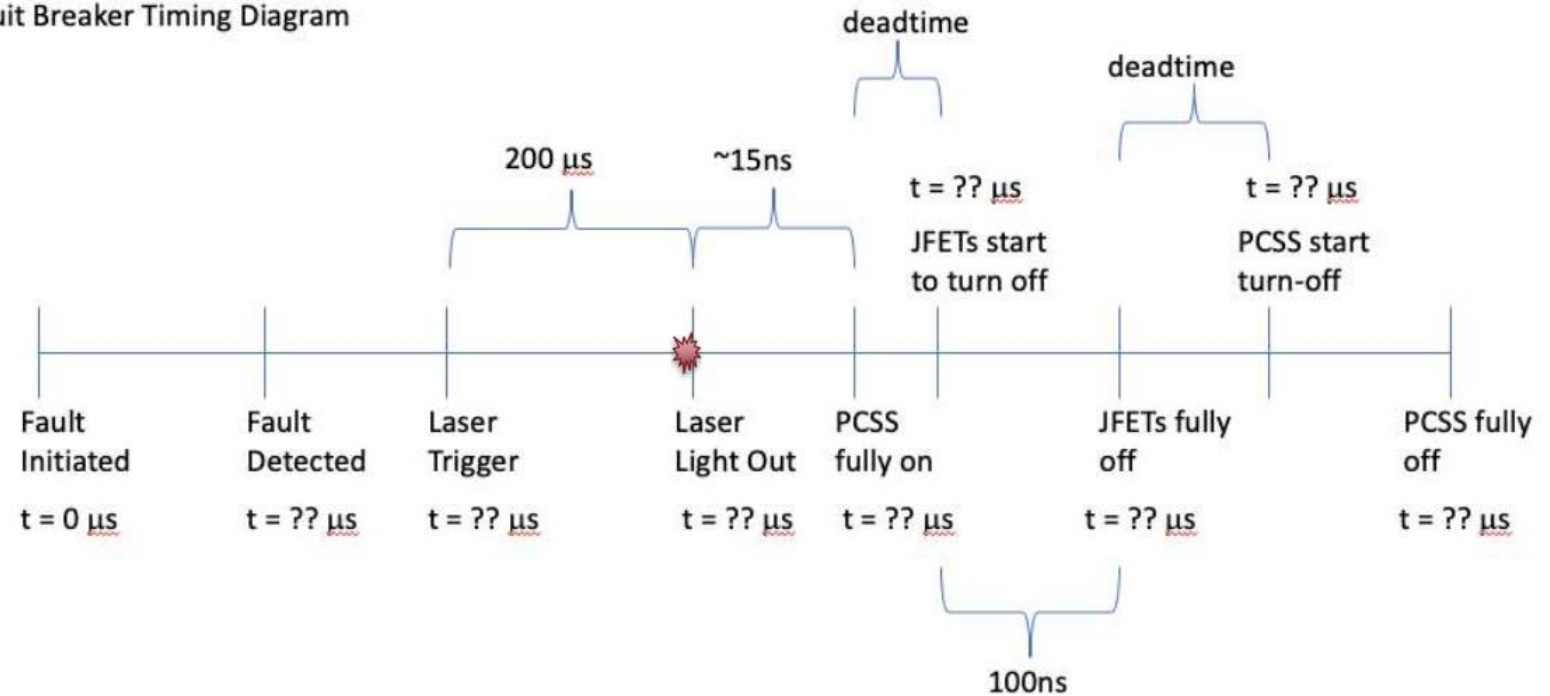


# DC Circuit Breaker Timing Diagram

A lot of tasks must occur have to occur in that 500  $\mu\text{s}$ !



DC Circuit Breaker Timing Diagram



Time budget for fault detection-to- switch actuation  $\sim 500 \mu\text{s}$

- The normally on leg will turn off in about  $\sim 100\text{ns}$ .
- $\sim 10$ 's of ns for deadtime on either side





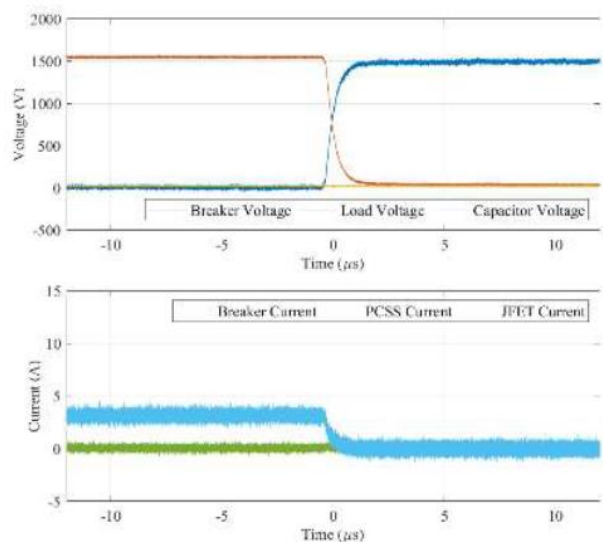
# Laser Parameters: Wavelength, Peak Power, Pulse Length, Jitter .... And delay time



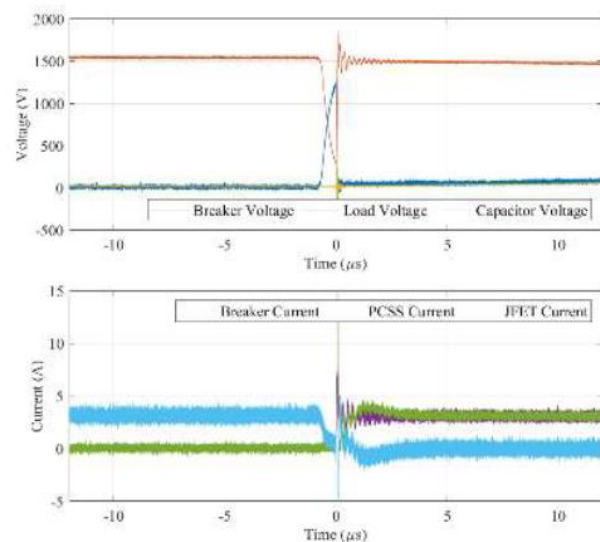
Not typically  
provided by  
manufacturer

Testing determined Circuit behavior is sensitive to laser jitter

- Laser trigger at  $t=0$ , but laser jitter causes it to fire at various voltages in the ramp during JFET turn off



PCSS didn't trigger into lock on mode  
~905 V on PCSS when laser trigger occurred



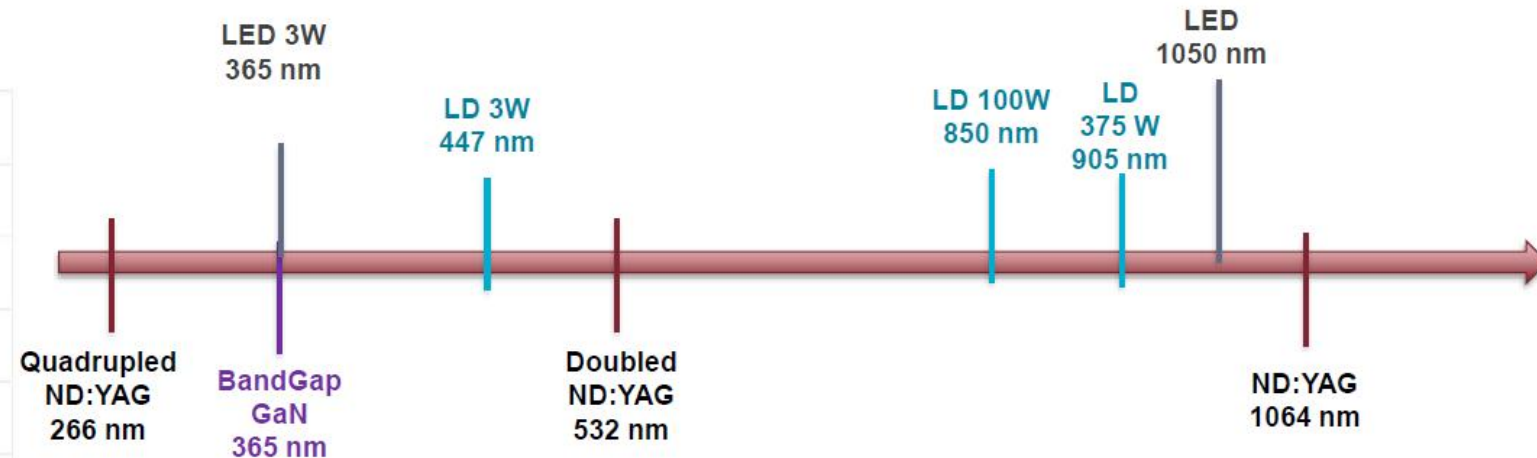
PCSS triggered into lock on mode  
~1230 V on PCSS when laser trigger occurred



# Laser and Laser Diode Wavelength Options

Laser Type	Wavelength
Argon fluoride (UV)	193
Krypton fluoride (UV)	248
Xenon fluoride (UV)	308
Nitrogen (UV)	337
Argon (blue)	488
Argon (green)	514
Helium neon (green)	543
Helium neon (red)	633
Nd:Yag* (near IR)	1064
Carbon Dioxide (far IR)	10600

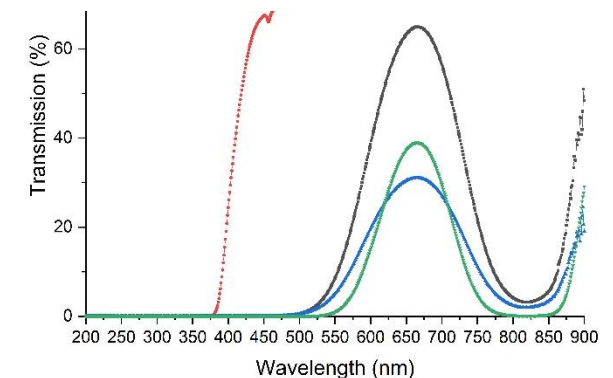
\* Neodymium-doped yttrium aluminum garnet



## Optical Energy

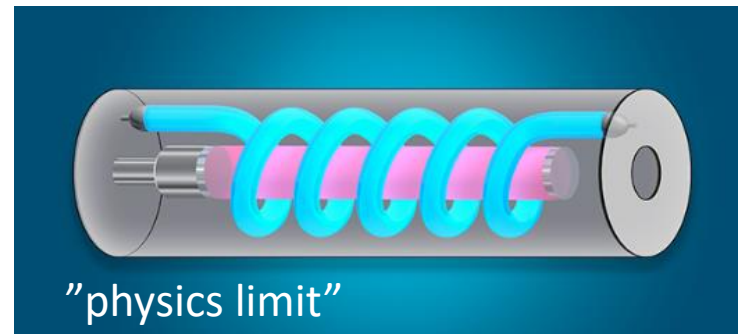
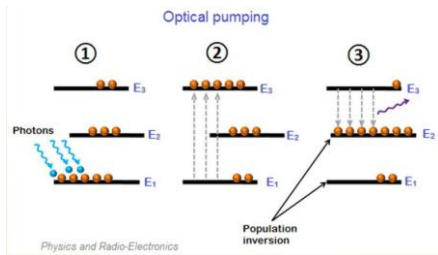
- 10 $\mu$ J to 1mJ of 532nm with 5 ns pulse width light required in previous experiments
- Laser diode and LED sources available in powers from mW to 100+W for CW operation
- Conversion from optical power to energy is time dependent.

**This may be a physics limit**

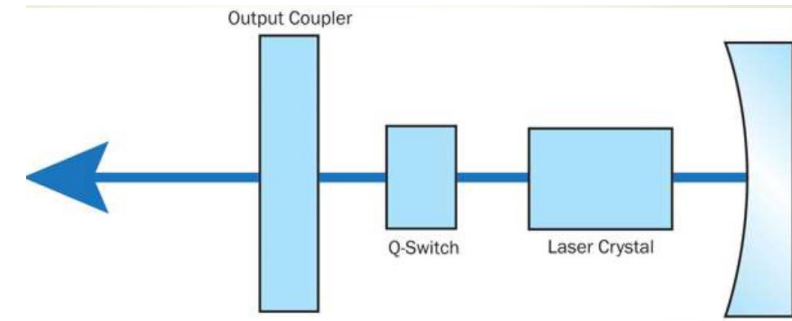


# Through-time for DC breaker includes laser

Atoms remain  
In the upper level  
for a long time

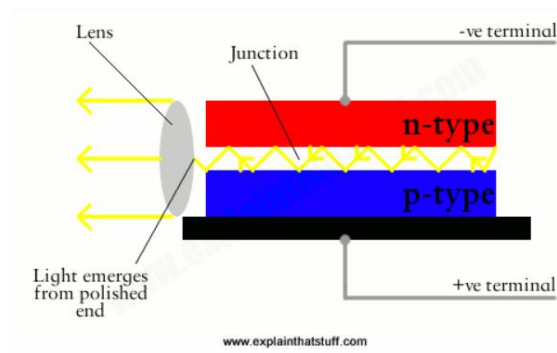
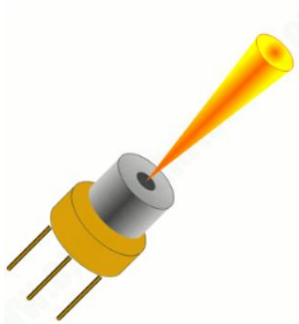


Time to fill cavity is large part of delay

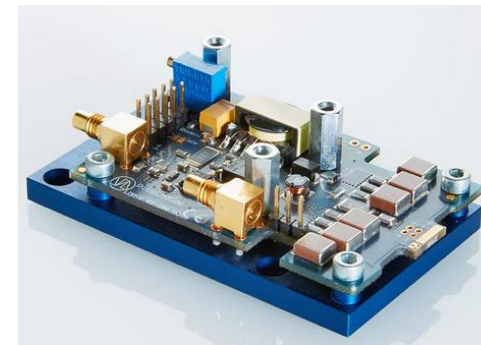


Passive Q switched can have  $\sim 200 \mu\text{s}$  delay  
and  $10 \mu\text{s}$  jitter

Simple Laser Diode  
Is current pumped  
& releases light quickly



650W LD has 10 ns  
turn on time



Driver 150 ps jitter  
(measured)

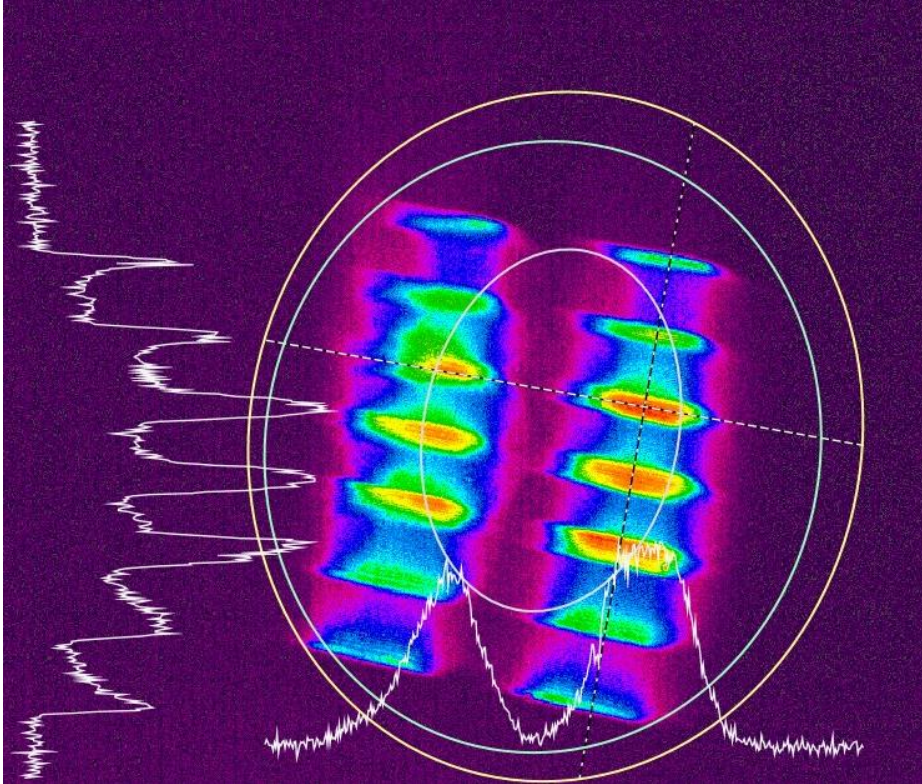
**Laser technology  
is very market  
driven**



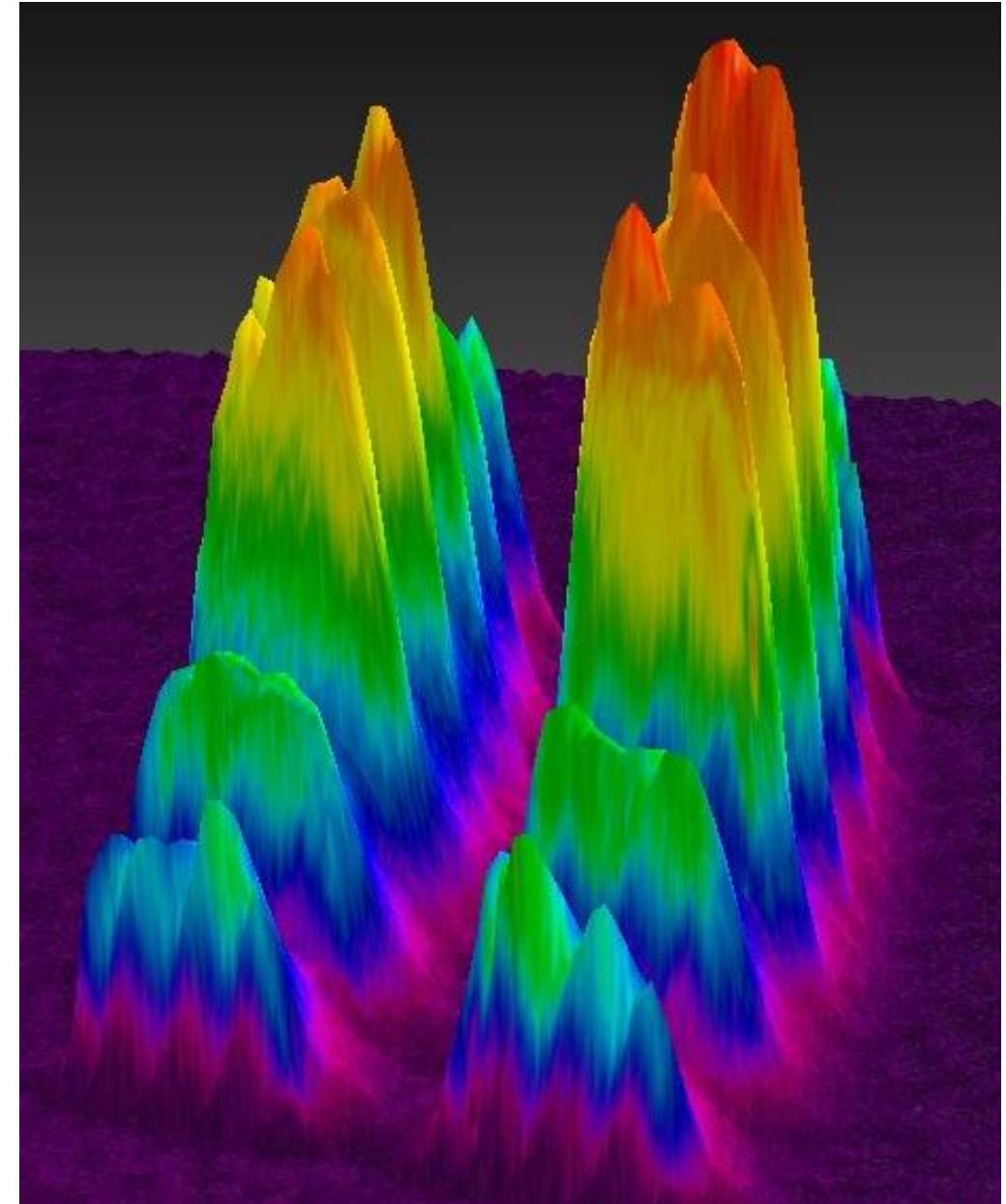


### Laser Beam Profile after collimation

650W@905 nm



The measured beam profiles shows our laser diode is a “wide stripe Laser diode” which radiates multiple quasi-gaussian TEM modes. This makes the collimating and focusing of our laser challenging.



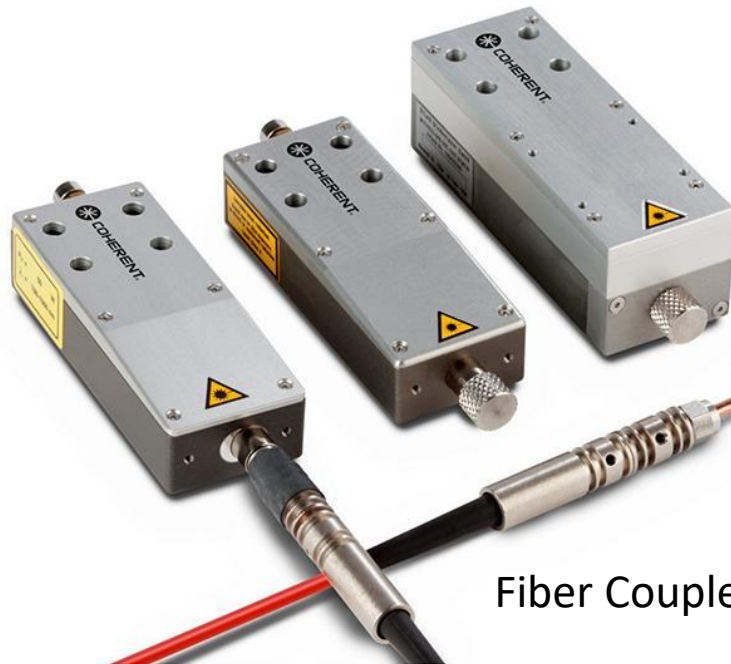
## Light triggers



Fiber Coupled Laser Diode

Fiber delivery

- EMI resistant
- Multiple triggering
- Allows remote actuation



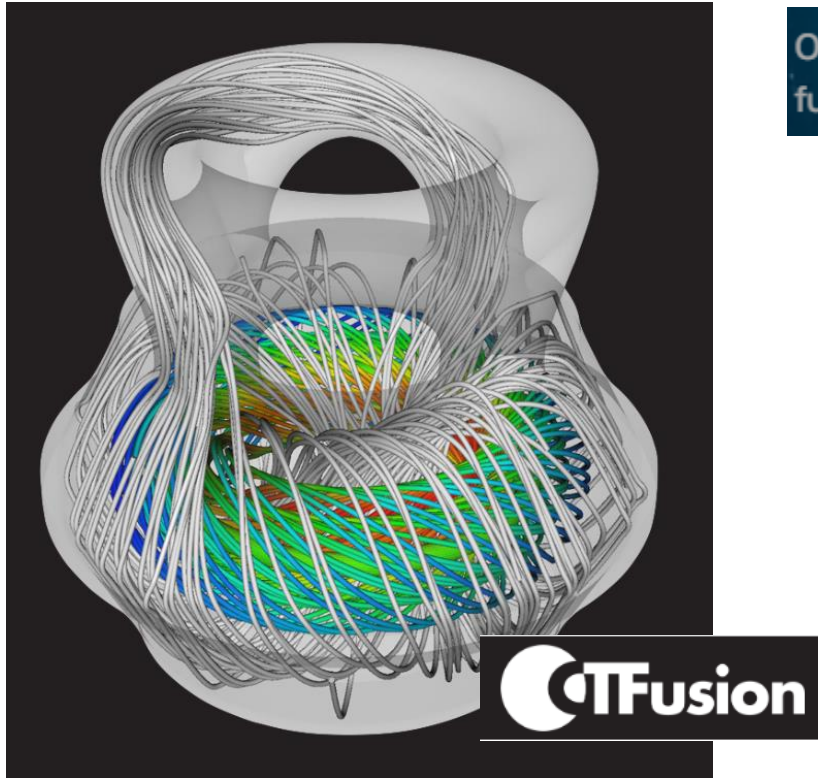
Fiber Coupled Laser



**Laser technology  
is very market  
driven**



# Fusion: Limitless Clean Energy



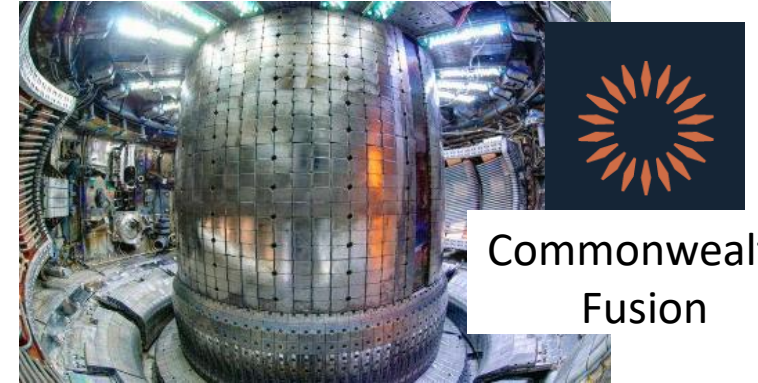
The **elimination of electrodes**, high power **efficiency** and **dynamic** plasma stabilization provides a favorable scaling ... & can operate continuously with **multiple** helicity injectors phased appropriately in time.

One glass of water will provide enough fusion fuel for one person's lifetime.

Commonwealth Fusion website

## Fusion Requires Highly Reliable Current Drivers

Zap Energy is building a seriously cheap, compact, scalable fusion reactor without costly and complex magnetic coils.



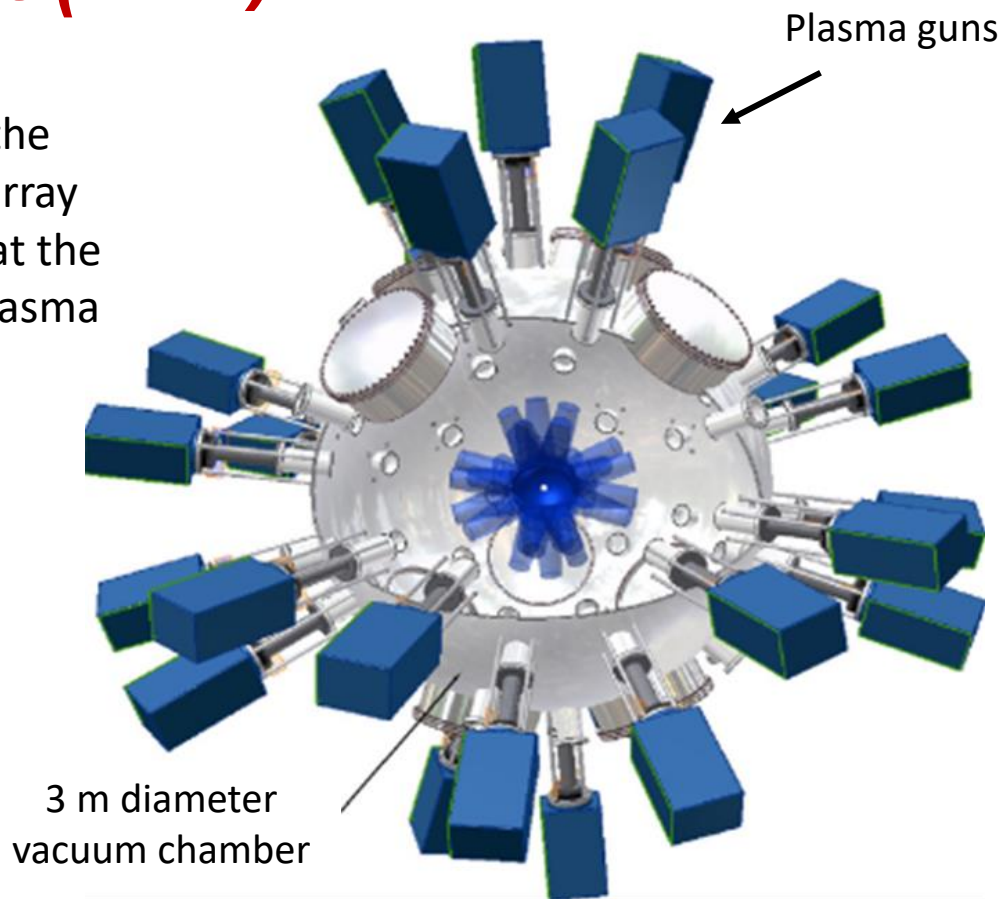
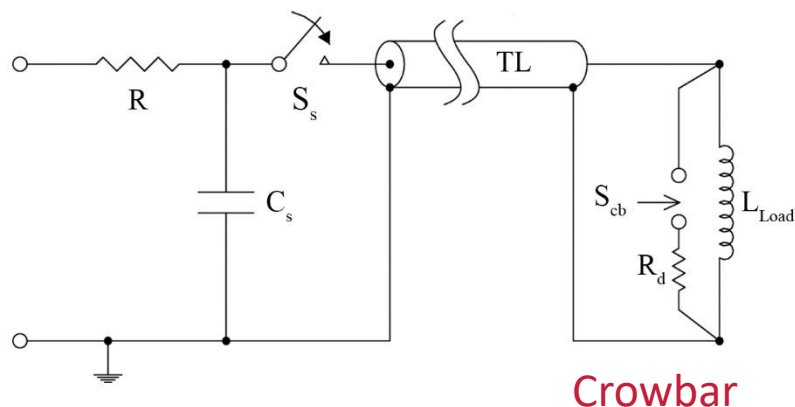


# LANL's Plasma Liner Experiment (PLX)

**Reliability implies Repeatability**

**Modularity requires Simultaneity and Fast Triggered Protection**

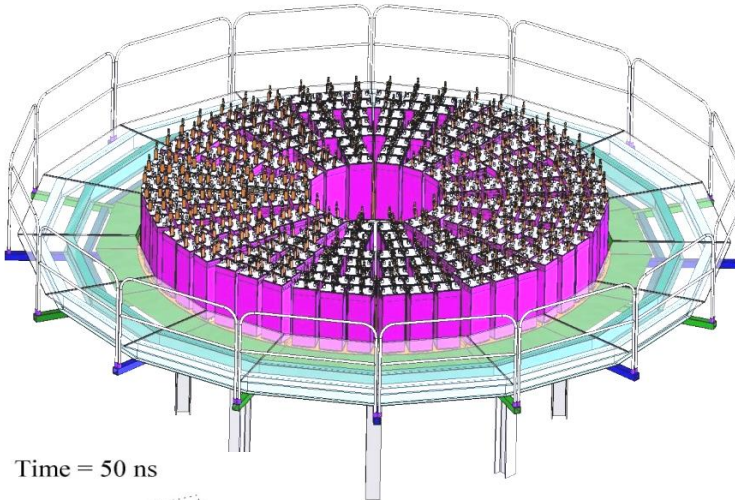
PLX shows the plasma gun array Needed to heat the magnetized plasma



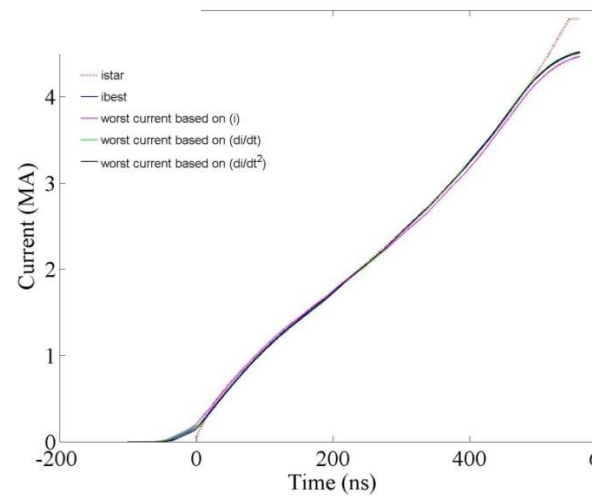
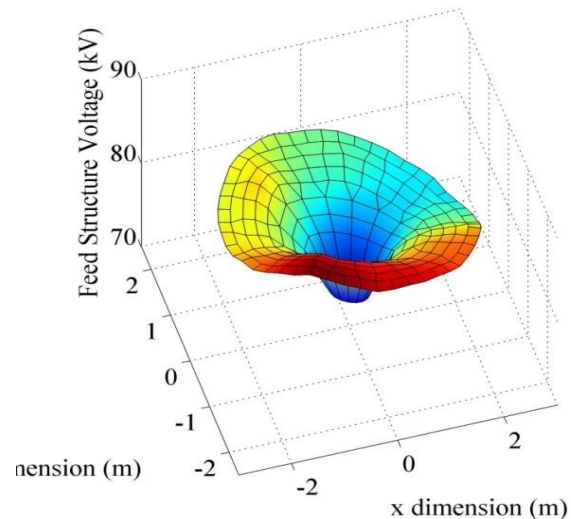
PLX's goal is to demonstrate the compression & heating of a magnetized D-D plasma to fusion conditions by a spherical plasma liner formed by an array of hypervelocity plasma jets



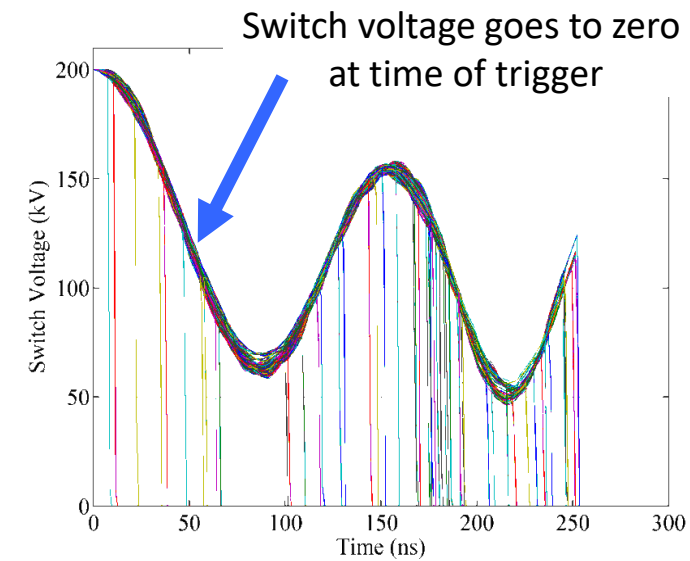
# Genesis: Isotropic Compression Experiments



Time = 50 ns



- Switches are contained in **240** tightly coupled modules & 60 trigger points.
- Transmission line voltage varies in time and location, resulting in varying voltages across untriggered switches.

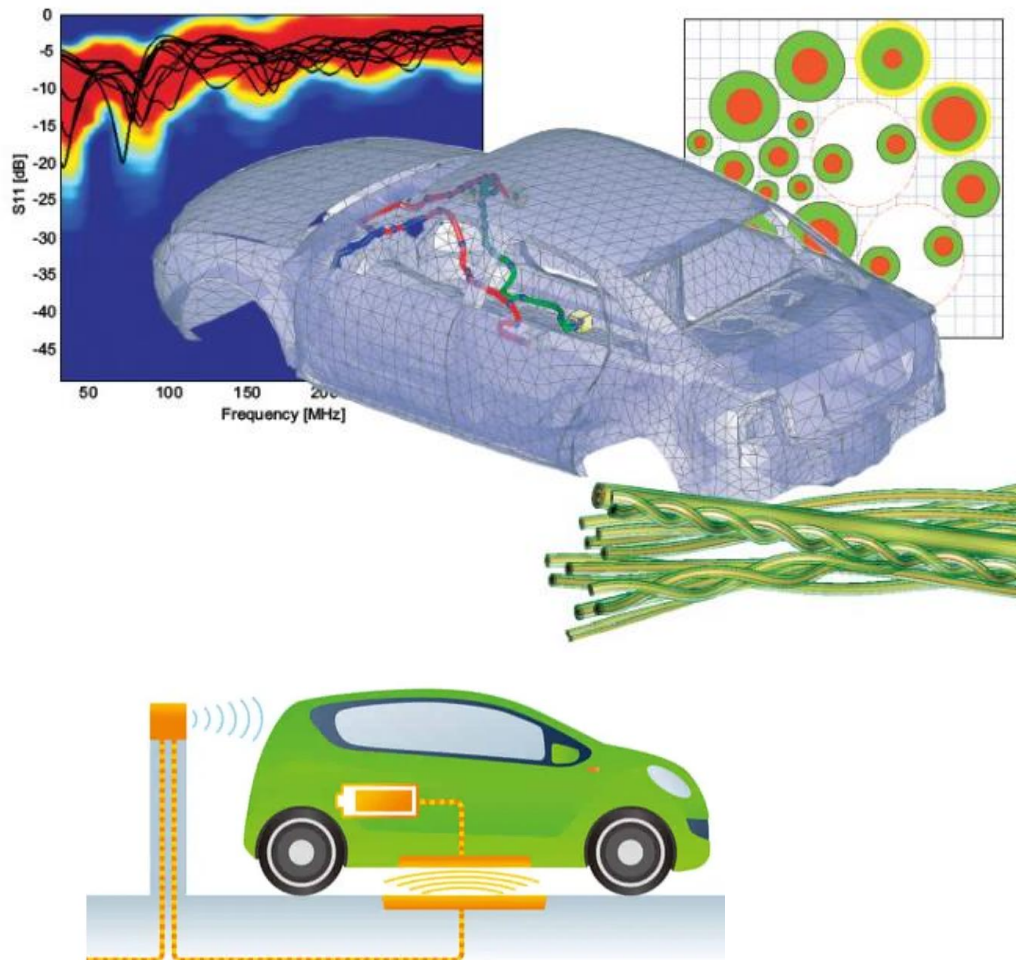


**Switches need a broad operating capabilities**



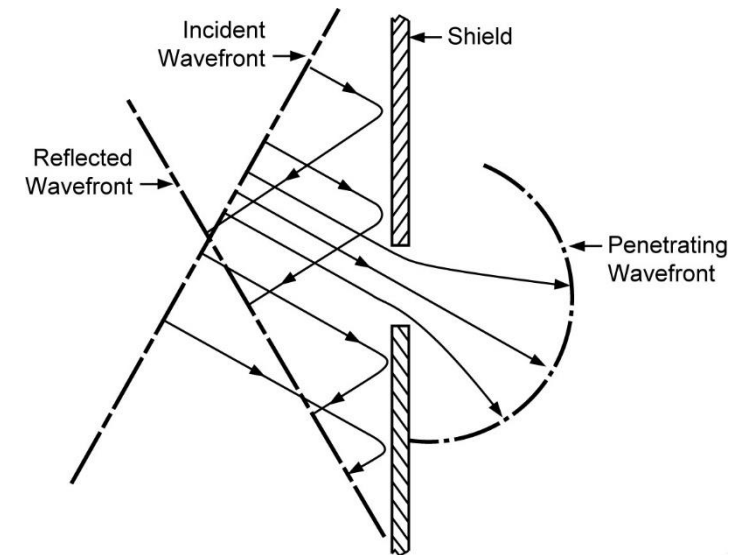


# Increasingly Complex Electromagnetic Environments



Multi timescale Radiators + Various Coupling

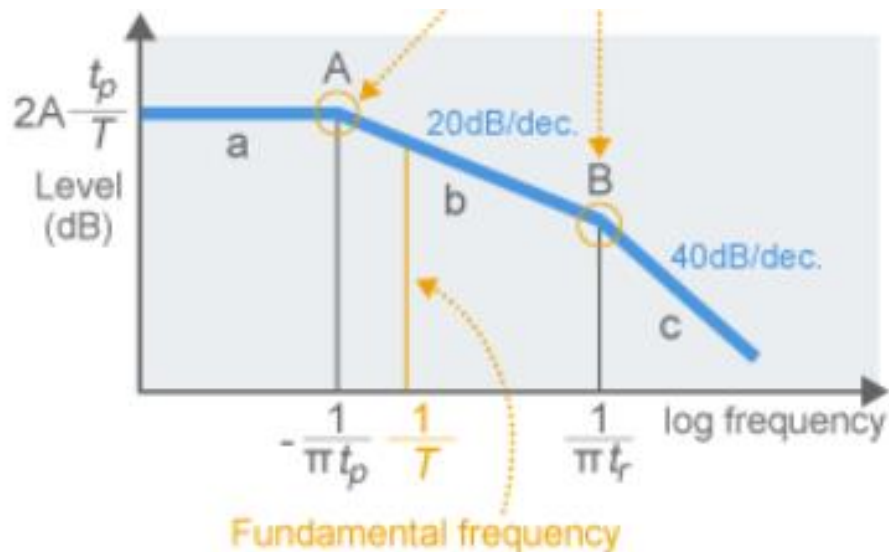
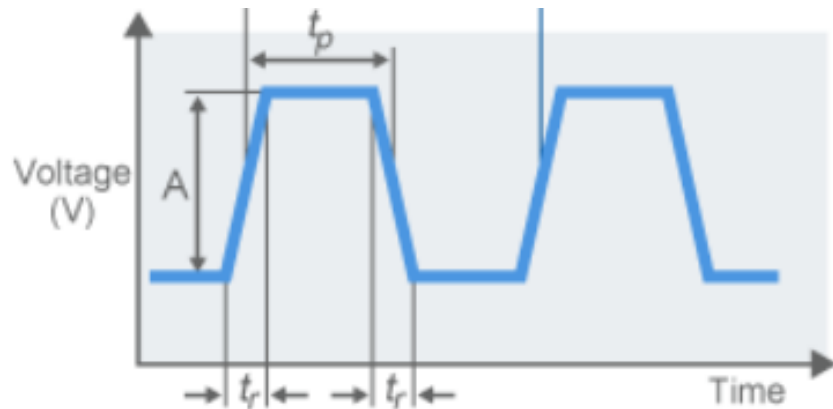
Coupling depends on wavelength





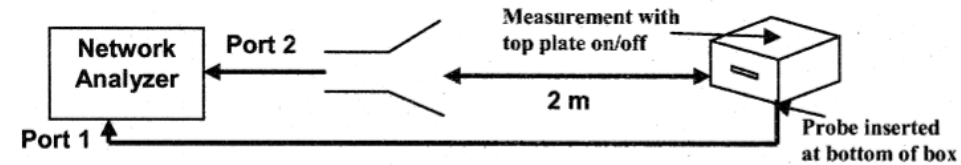


### Time – Frequency

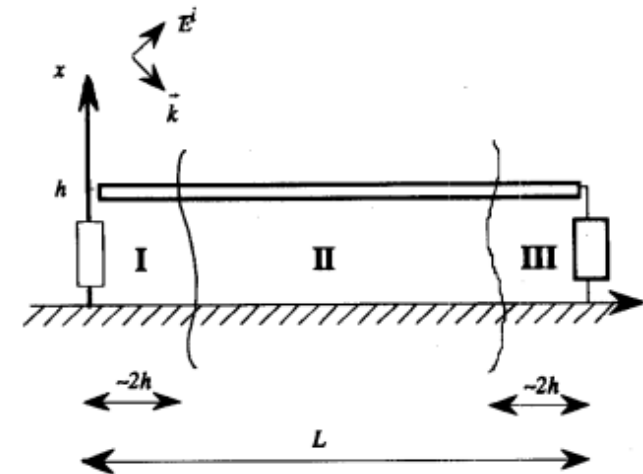


### Radiated Emissions

#### Apertures



Fast risetime  $\longleftrightarrow$  High frequency/short wavelength



Transmission Lines couple to frequencies corresponding to their length

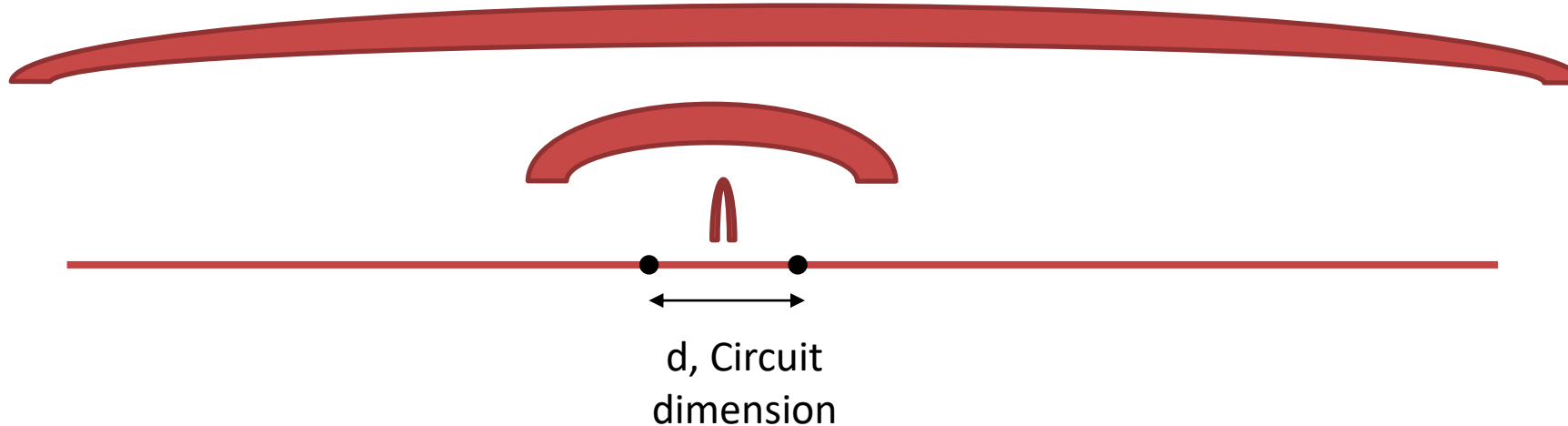
# Frequency - Length and the Microwave Condition

$$0.1\lambda < d_{ckt} < 10\lambda \left\{ \begin{array}{l} d_{ckt} = \text{circuit dimension} \\ \lambda = \text{excitation wavelength} \end{array} \right.$$

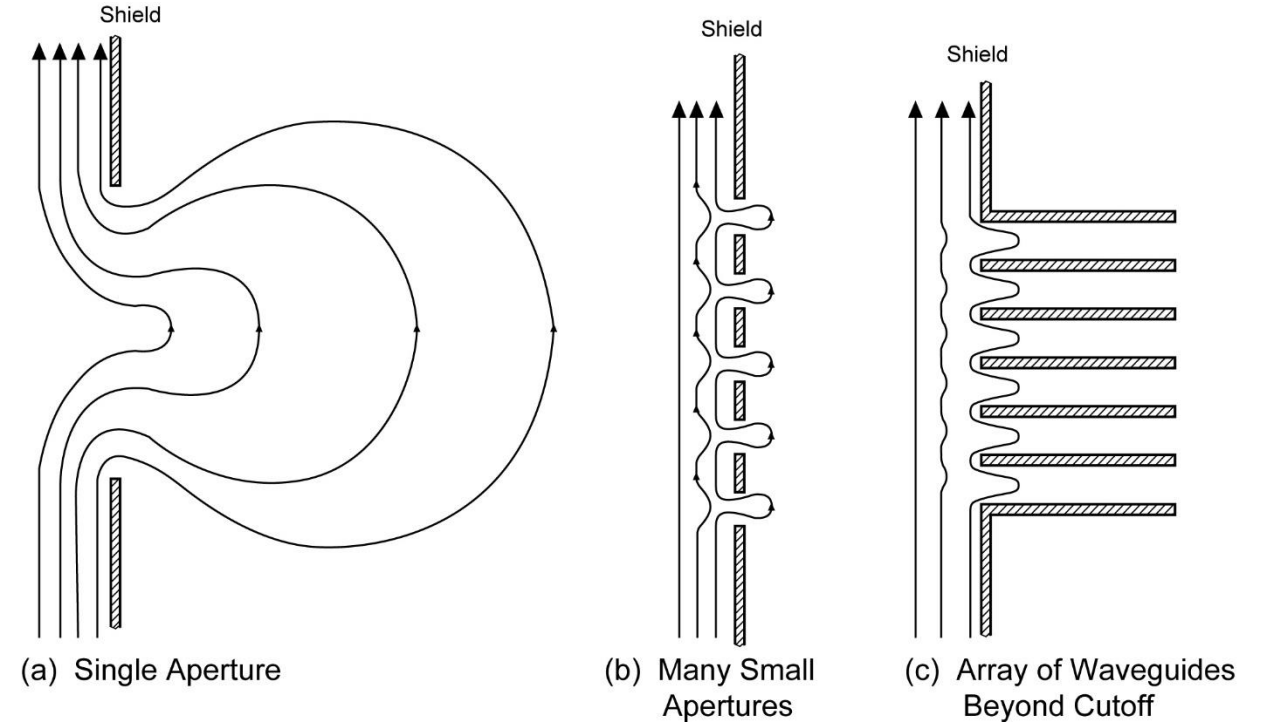
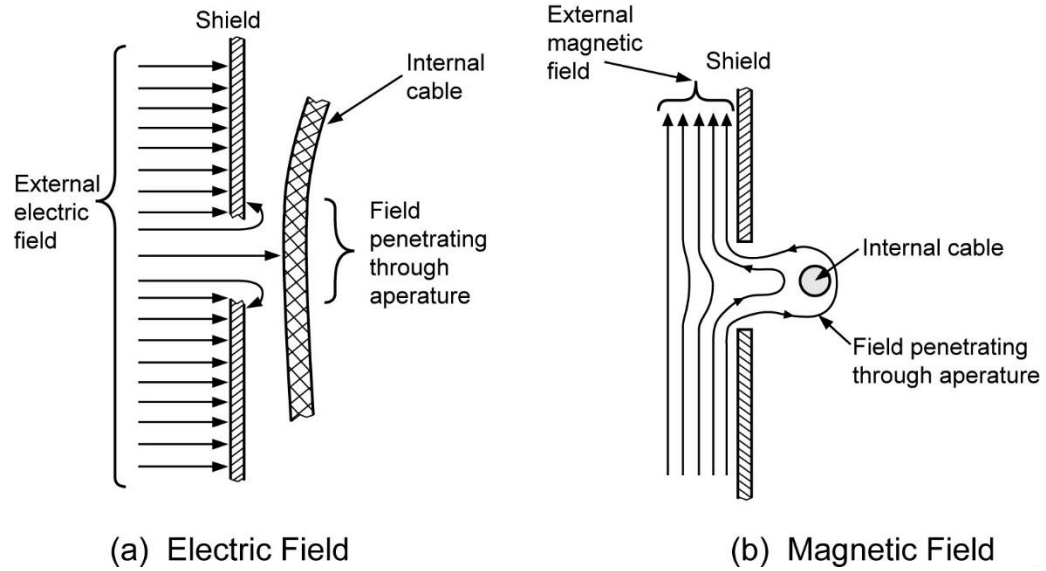
Lumped Circuit  $d \ll \lambda$

Microwave  $d \sim \lambda$

Optic  $d \gg \lambda$



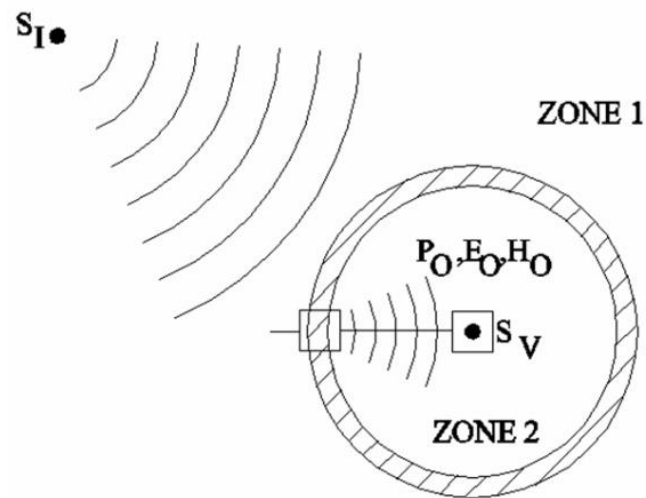
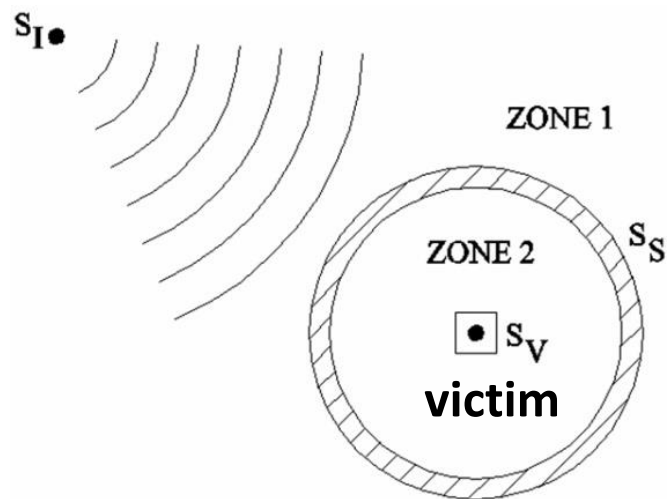
## Apertures



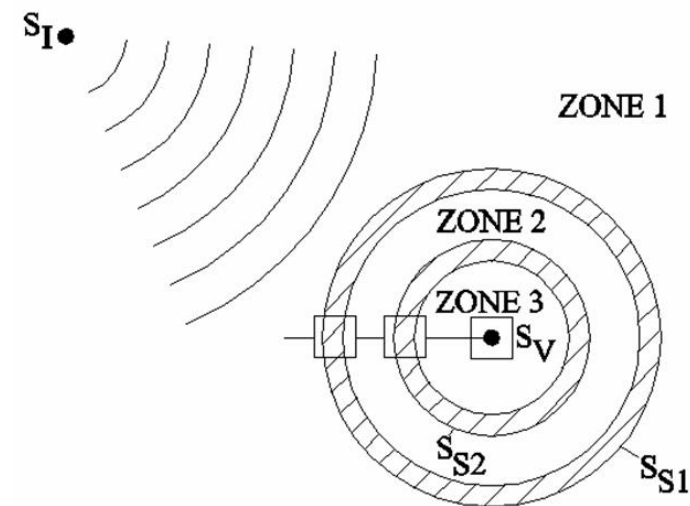


# EM Topology – Heirarchical Approach to EMC

source

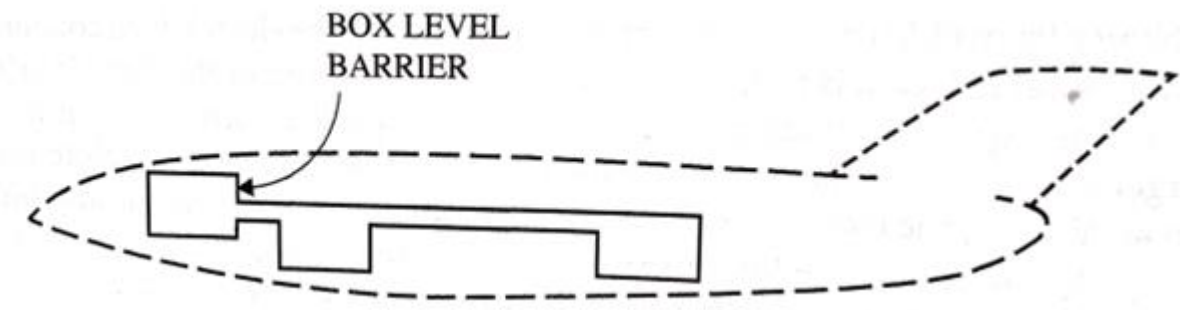
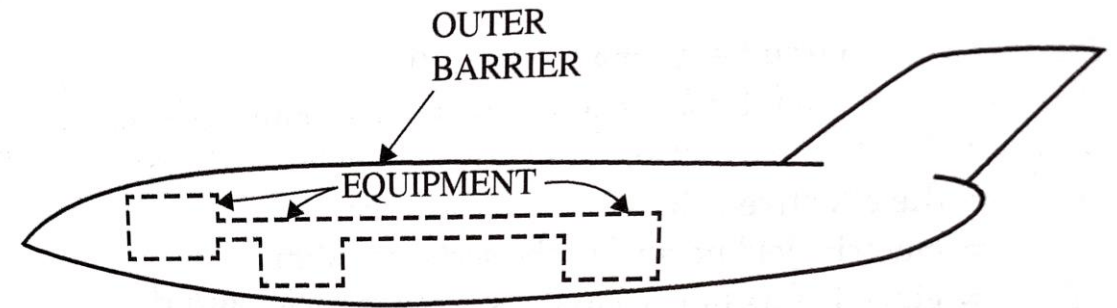
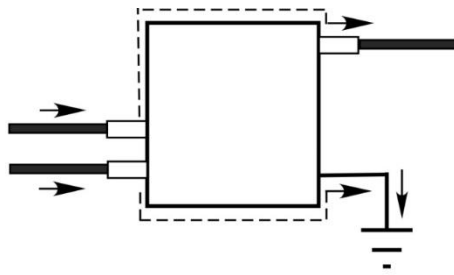
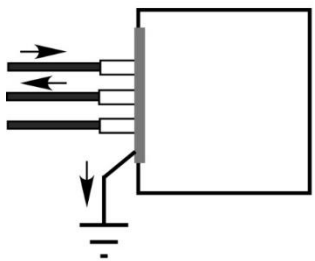
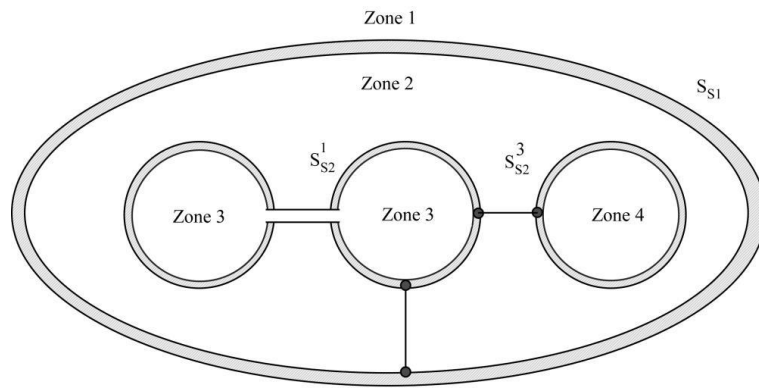


Allows for shielding techniques  
though out the spectrum





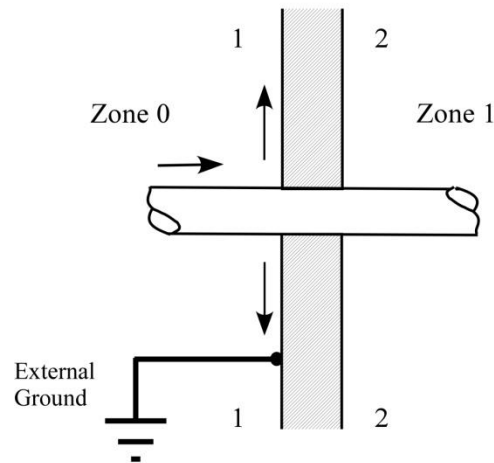
# Shielding Topology



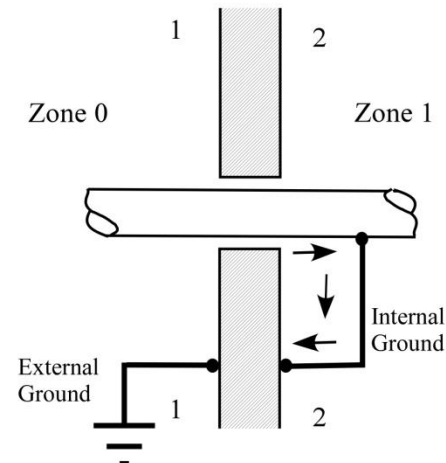




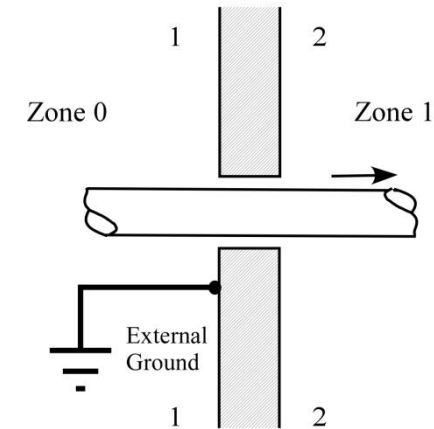
# Penetrations & Conducted Emissions



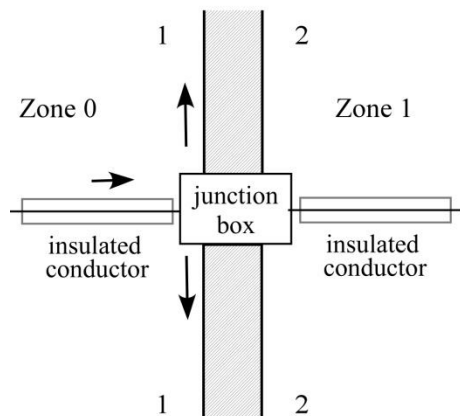
(a) Good



(b) Compromising

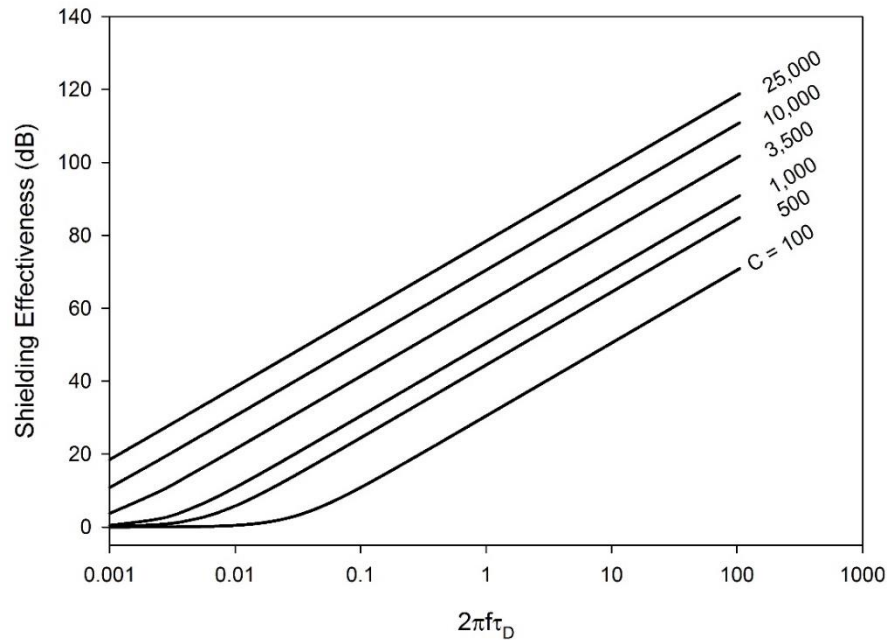


(c) Bad

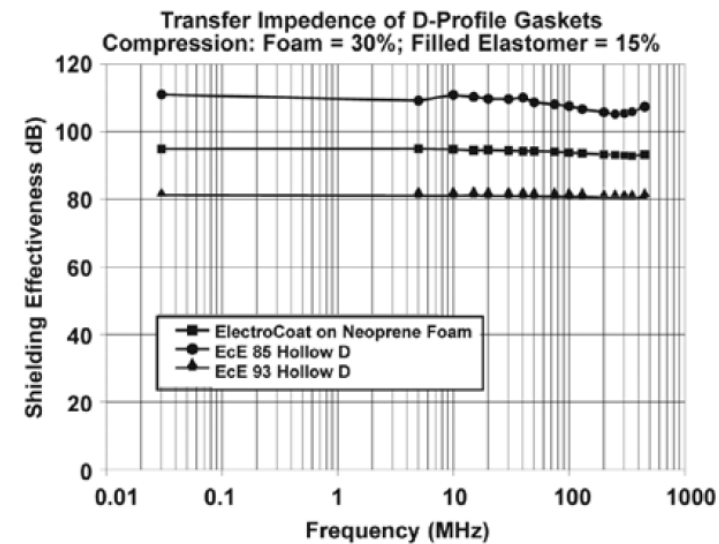
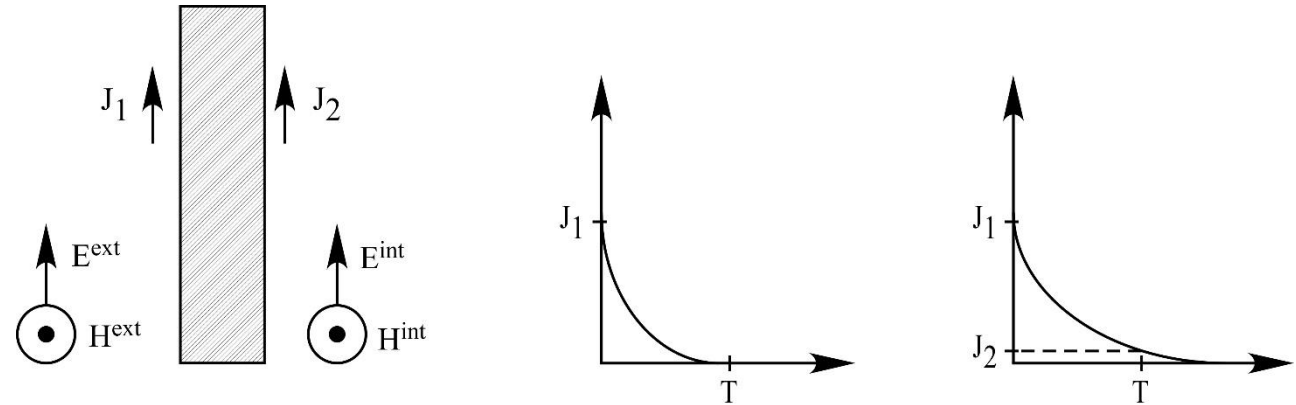


Inside module, other techniques may also be used, ground planes, multilevel circuits, EMI filters, etc.

# Enclosures



Analyze  
E- (capacitive)  
&  
H (inductive)  
Coupling Separately



Amazing  
Commercial  
Products  
Available



# Topology for Fault Containment within a System

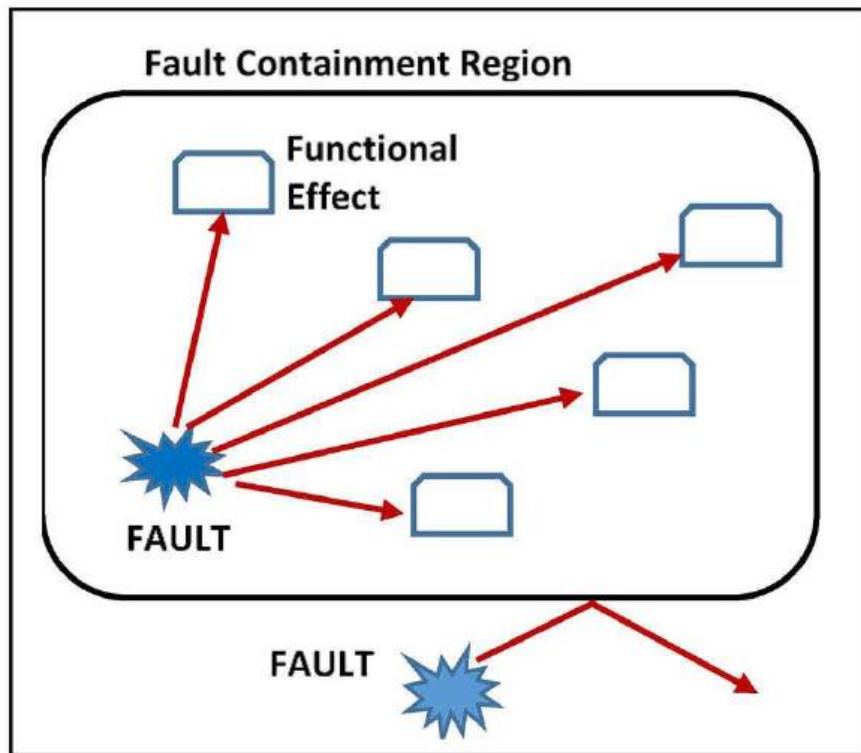


Fig. 1 Basic Concept of a FCR

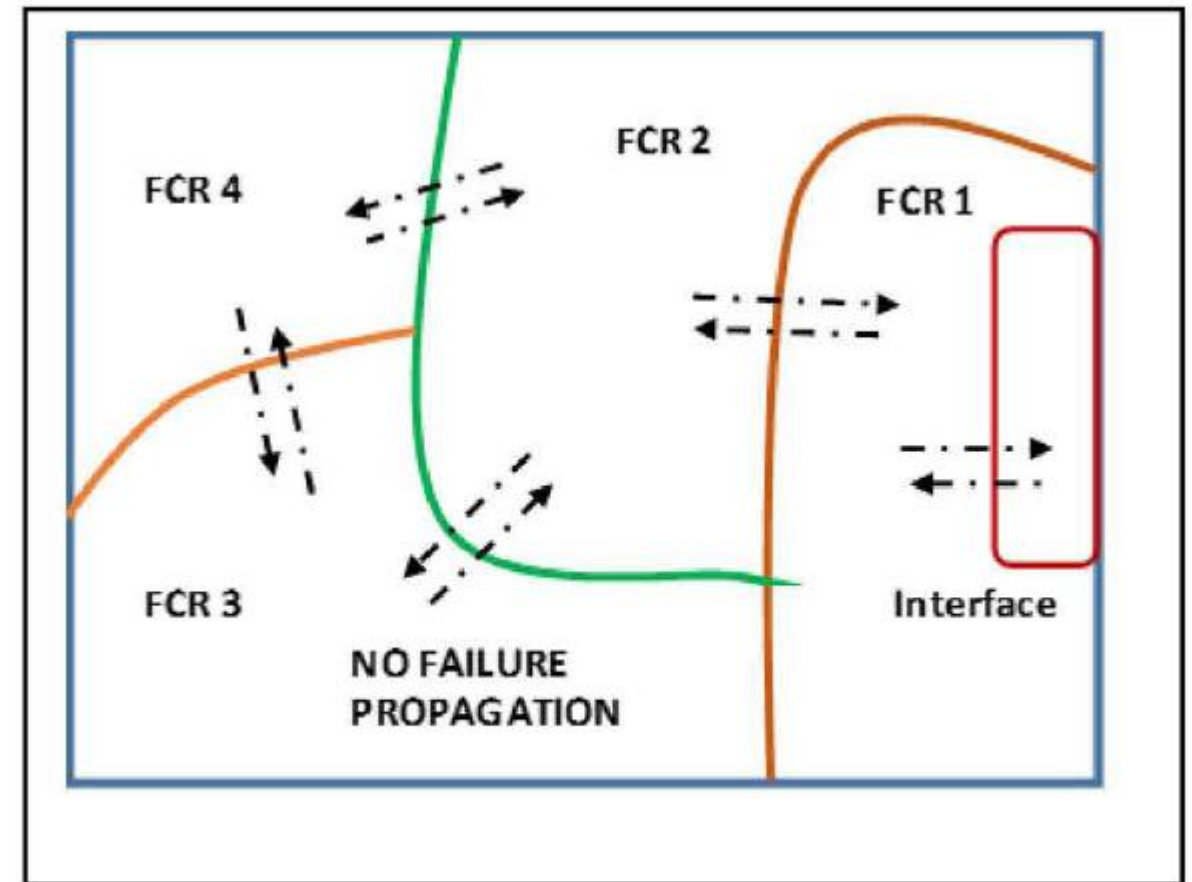
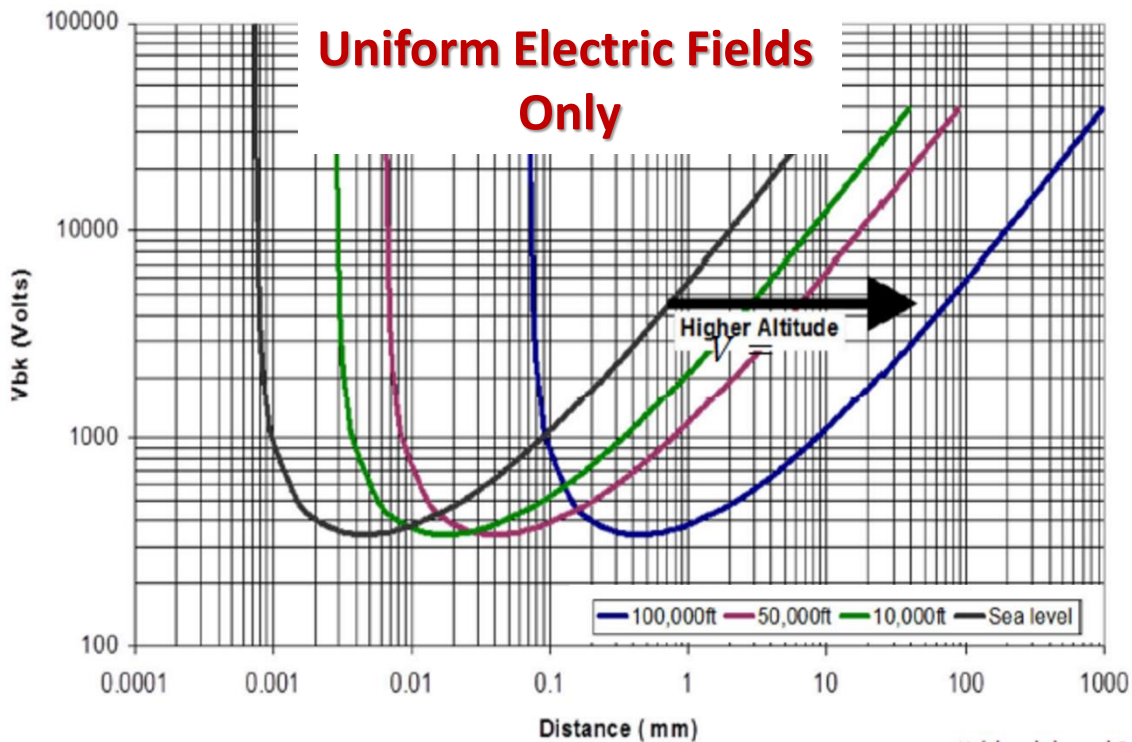


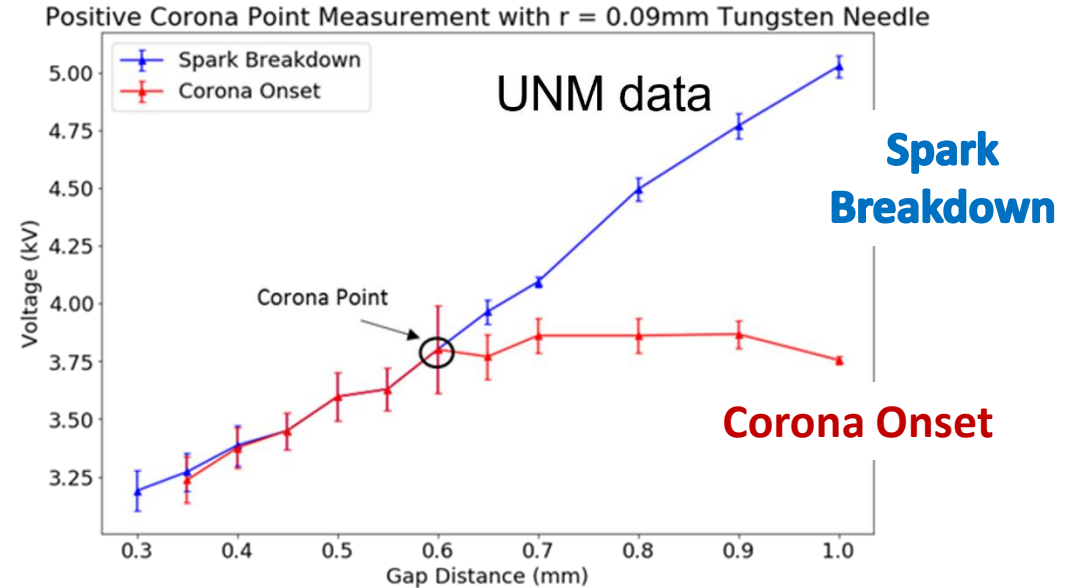
Fig. 2 FCRs not allowing failure propagation



# A Different System Consideration: The Altitude Dilemma



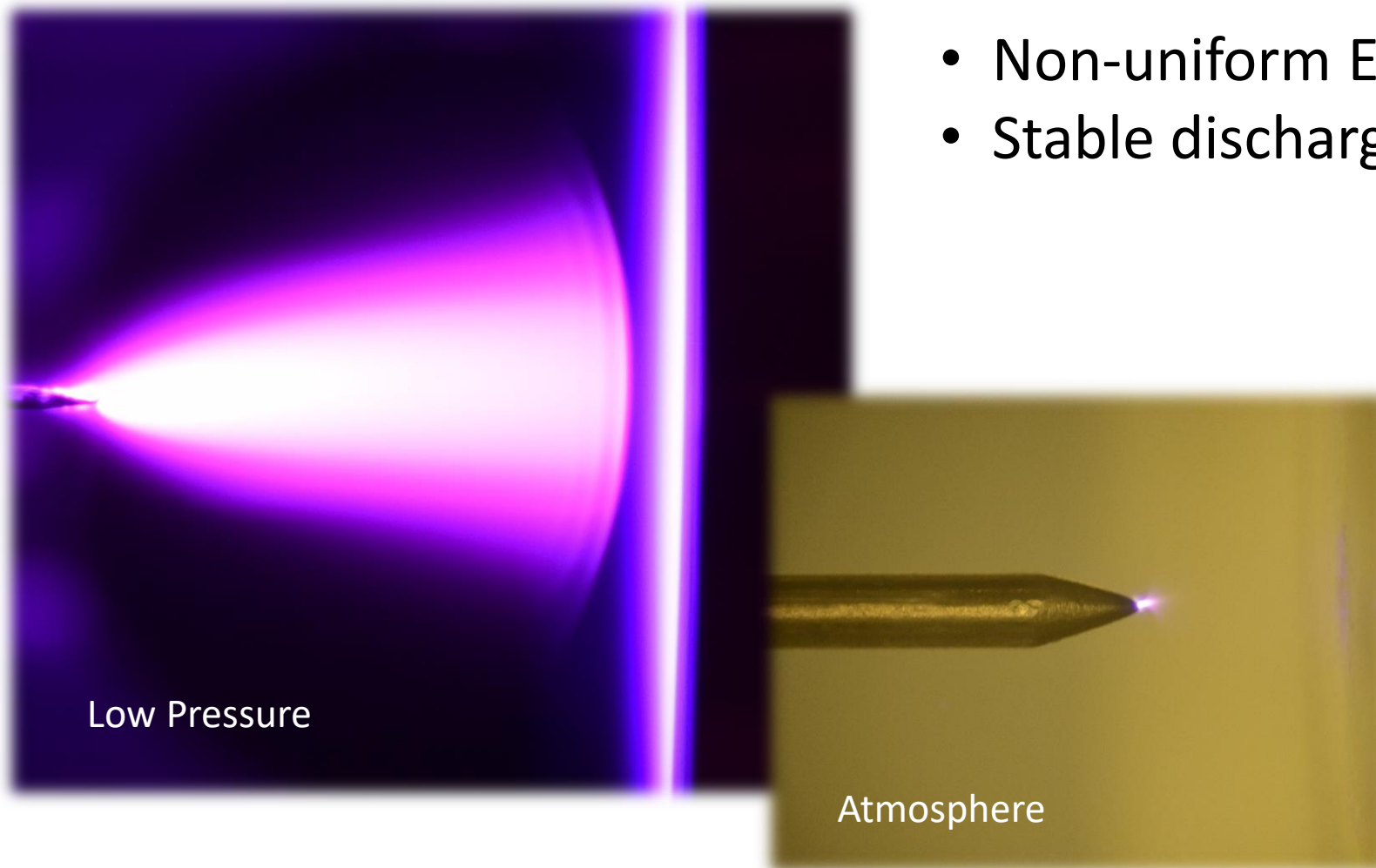
**Higher altitude requires more distance for a given voltage**



**More uniformity**

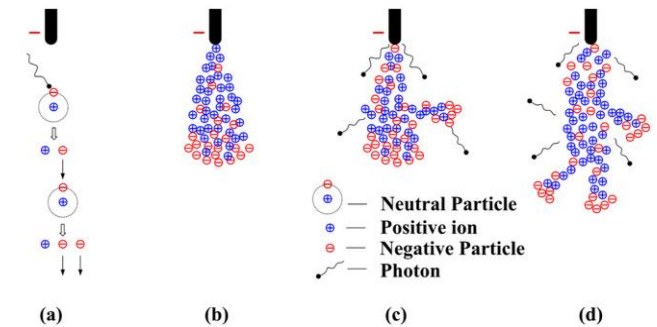
**In nonuniform electric fields, if only breakdown is a concern, the allowable minimum electric field distribution is much higher - several kV/cm**

# Low Pressure DC Corona Discharge (Pin-to-Plane)



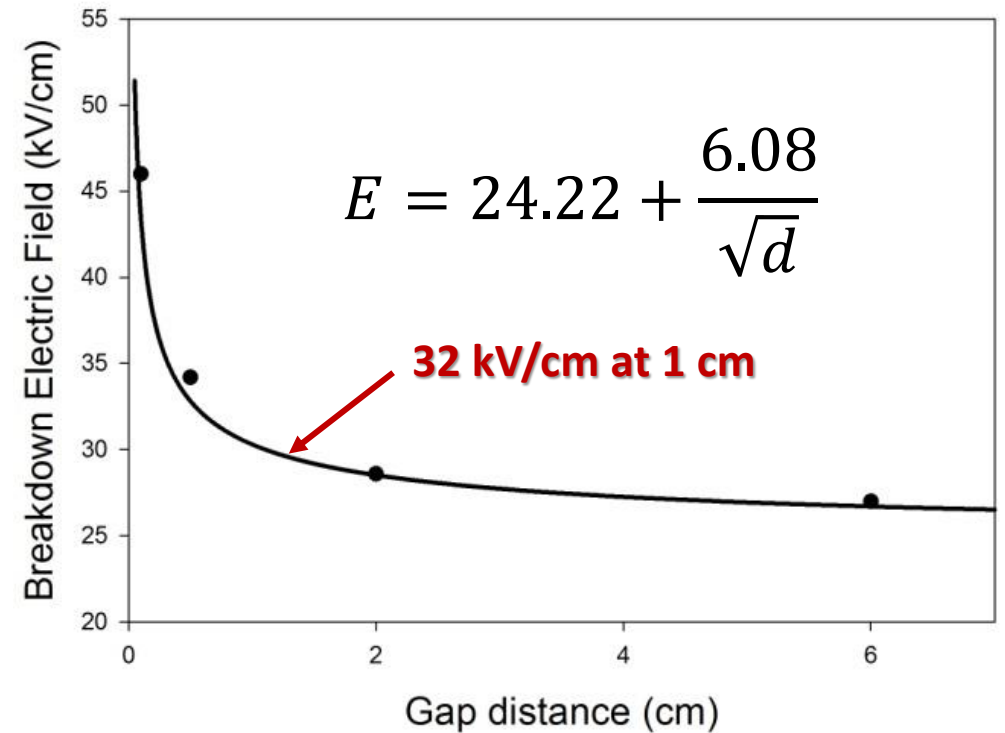
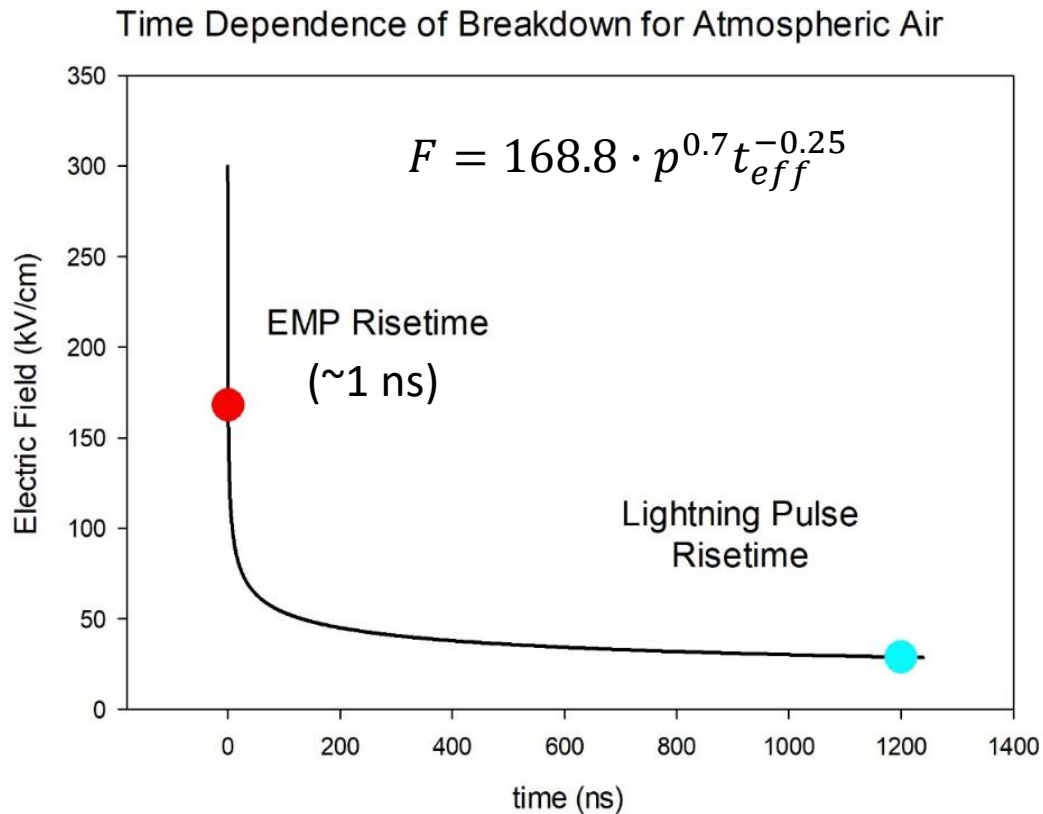
- Non-uniform Electric Field Geometries
- Stable discharge

$$R_{cor} = \frac{V}{I_{cor}}$$





# Air Breakdown



**Longer timescales & lengths allow more processes to contribute ...  
needing less peak voltage for breakdown**

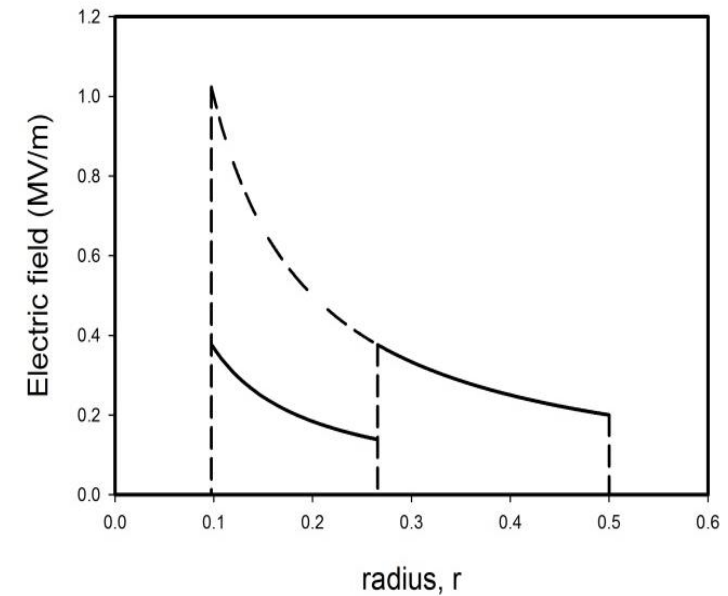
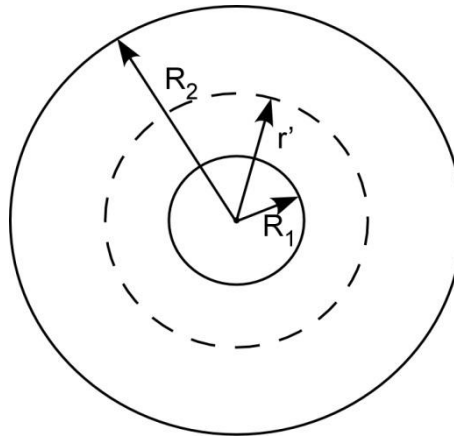
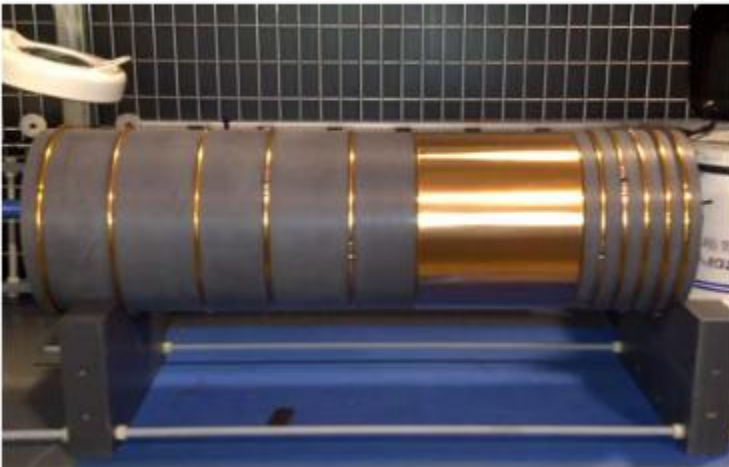


**Picasso or T. S. Eliot said ....**  
**“the good artist imitates and the great artist steals”**

**A great artist** will select elements from other's and incorporate it into their own unique mix of influences



Introduce strategically placed conductors for E field control



**Reducing PFN Marx Generator Size Using Nested Solid Insulation**

R. J. Adler, J. Gilbrech, D. New  
Applied Energetics  
3590 E. Columbia Str.,  
Tucson, AZ 85714

**Determine structure – since conductors are not current carrying, how much bulk is required?**

## Ferrite Pulse Sharpeners

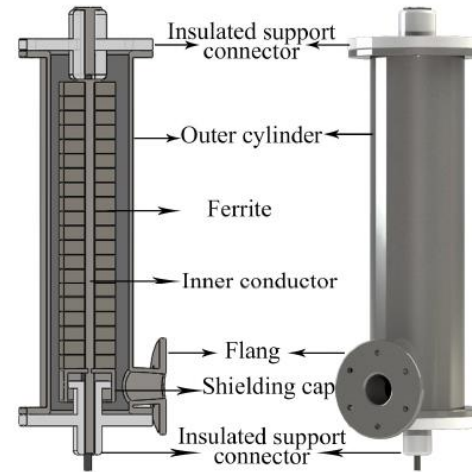
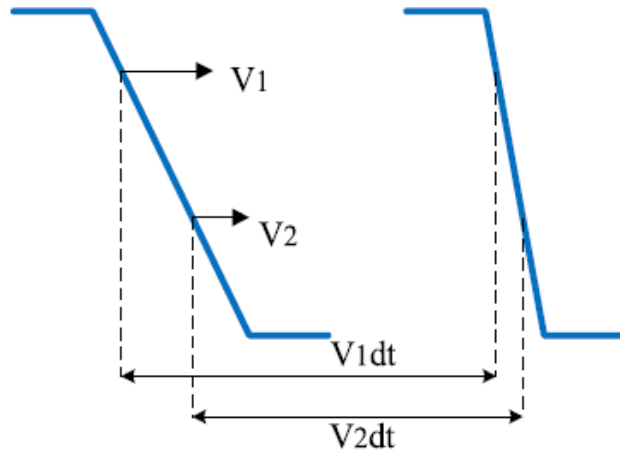


Fig. 12. Structure diagram of one-section ferrite transmission line.

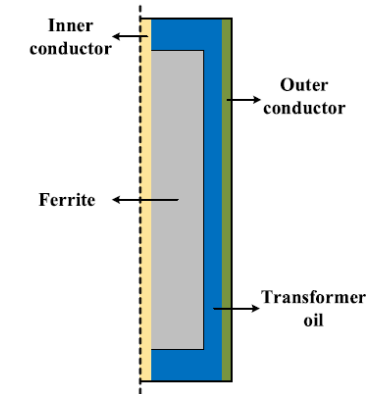


Fig. 3. Simplified 2-D axisymmetric model of the ferrite transmission line.

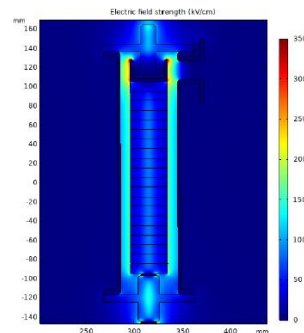


Fig. 13. Electric field simulation of a ferrite transmission line section.

IEEE TRANSACTIONS ON PLASMA SCIENCE

**Design and Performance of a Ferrite Transmission Line Sharpener for Trigger Generator Used in FLTD**

Jinbo Jiang<sup>1</sup>, Zheng Luo<sup>2</sup>, Yu Cao, Wanchen Cai, Jiadong Wang, and Tingqiang Cheng

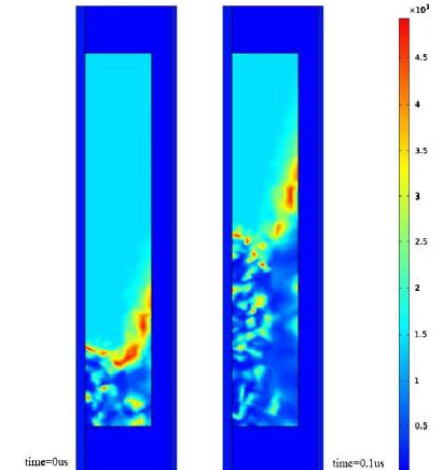
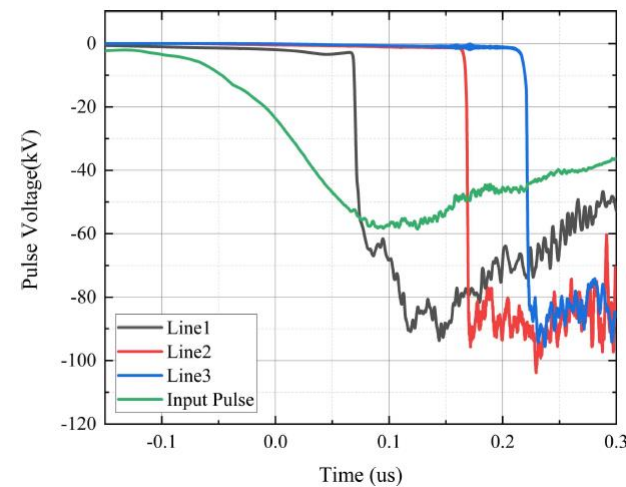


Fig. 4. Magnetization process simulation of magnetic core.

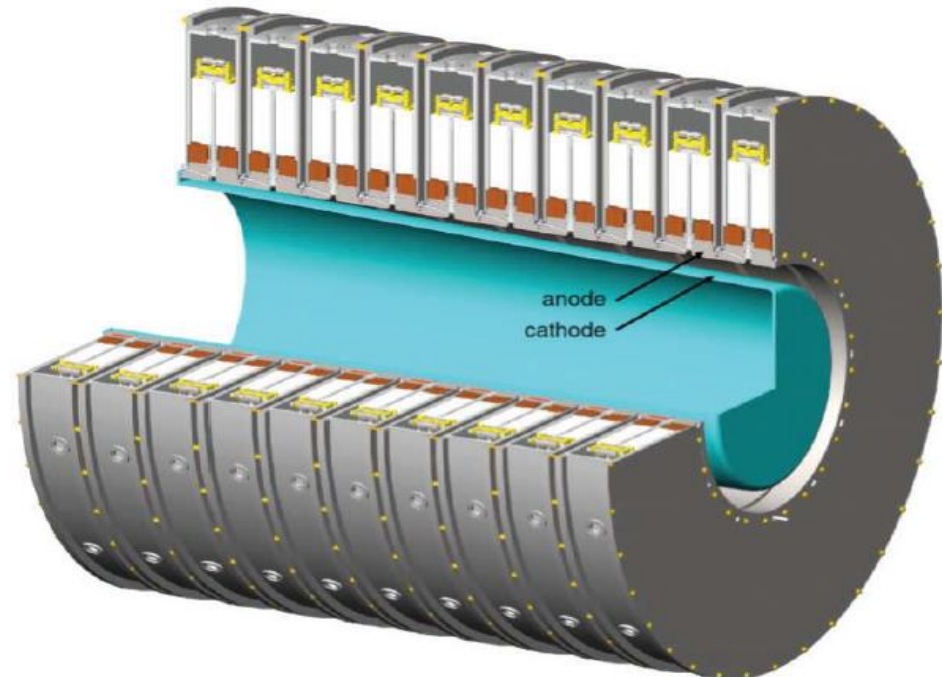
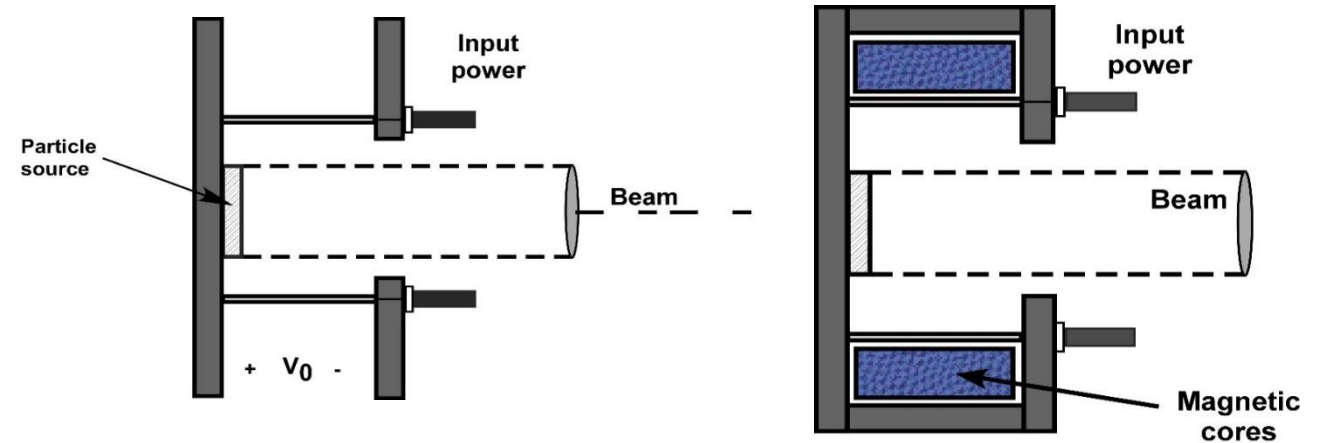


# Accelerator Cavities

For accelerators and fast modular circuits



- Magnetic cores act as 1:1 transformers to deliver energy
- Cavities allow stacking
- Voltage Adder Topology demonstrated
- Needs control



## Summary

Light Triggering and Ultrafast Switches  
are a key enabling technology to increase  
the resilience of the evolving power system  
& encourages modularity and protection

*Thank  
you*

